

**Minutes of the Senate ROTC committee meeting  
November 20, 2008**

**Members Present:** Albert Berger, Eric Murphy, Donna Pearson, Thad Rosenberger, Amebu Seddoh, Haylee Cripe, Sean Crawford Ltc. Kevin Sickinger, Ltc. Tony Williams. **Regrets:** Richard Fiordo

**Other Present:** Greg Weisenstein and Dennis Elbert

**The meeting was called to order at 14:05 (2:05pm):**

1. Introductions were made and the current membership list was circulated with email addresses of all members. The status of the Presidential Designee was discussed; no person had been assigned to the position at the time of the meeting.

**Business**

1. **Review of Minutes:** A draft copy of the October 19, 2008 minutes was reviewed. Corrections were made regarding minor spelling errors and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
2. **Review of New Cadre:** The biographies of Captain Micheal J. Blake (AFROTC) and 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Scott Reed (AROTC) were circulated for review. Ltcs. Williams and Sickinger fielded comments concerning the responsibilities of each individual. It was noted that Cpt. Blake teaching responsibilities will involve freshman and senior level course instruction and Lt. Reed will be involved with sophomore level instruction. It was further noted that Lt. Reed's detachment includes only a one-year term. Ltc Sickinger noted that Lt. Reed's service experience in Operation Iraqi Freedom will be a highly valued asset to our current student enrollment. **Both cadre members were approved by unanimous vote of the committee.**
3. **Status/Update on Progress of Establishing Drill Space:** Haylee Cripe and Ltc. Kevin Sickinger provided an update to the committee concerning establishing drill space on campus or at the Alerus center. Ms. Cripe and Ltc Sickinger noted that they had recently meet with Chris Semrau (Ralph Booking information) to discuss the possibility of using the upper level concourse for morning physical training. They also reported that the main objection was gaining access to the facility on a regular basis. A compromise was suggested by the ROTC that a possible barter deal could be made for access to the facility in exchange for services rendered during special events hosted by the Ralph. An appointment was made with General Manager Judy Hodgson and Chris Semrau to discuss the possibility further. Ms. Cripe and Ltc. Sickinger will brief the committee on progress made.

Greg Weisenstein noted that he serves on an Alerus Development committee and thought that the Alerus center should also be further considered. Ltc. Sickinger noted that he has

approached the Alerus center in the past and that they were open to the possibility provided the ROTC programs provide a \$450 clean-up charge per session making the use of the Alerus not affordable. Dr. Weisenstein suggested that concessions can possibly be made and that the University is in negotiation with the Alerus center in the hopes of established an indoor training athletic facility. Dr. Weisenstein suggested Ltc. Sickinger send him an email regarding the ROTC programs training requirements with a description of the programs frequency of use and clean-up. Ltc. Agreed to send Dr. Weisenstein a description of these requirements via email.

4. **Status/Update on Recruiting Status Including University Commitments:** A short discussion was made concerning University commitments to foster our requiring needs. Ltc. Sickinger noted that he and his commanding Officer meet with President Kelly and that at the time of the meeting no commitments were made by the University. A four member sub-committee including Ltc. Sickinger, Haylee Cripe, Albert Berger and Eric Murphy was formed to pursue the issue. Ltc. Sickinger noted that over the past 2 years the AROTC program has experience a 40% increase in the number of cadets recruited into the program and the AFROTC has remained constant. Ltcs. Sickinger and Williams noted however that they continue to lose recruits because they cannot offer competitive recruiting packages. However both were confident that the success of their recruiting efforts would increase with a greater commitment from the University and that this commitment would pay for itself with increases in tuition to the University. Ltc. Sickinger and Ms. Cripe were scheduled to meet with Judy Sargent (Director Resident Services) to investigate the possibility of a University Housing commitment to bolster the programs recruiting efforts. Ltc. Sickinger and Ms Cripe will inform the committee as to the progress of these discussions.

Dr. Weisenstein noted that long-term support for the program would reside in efforts to increase funding from the state legislature.

5. **ROTC reporting Structure to the University:** In our closing discussion Dr. Weisenstein noted that the president has reassigned the reporting structure of the ROTC programs to the president's office. The current reporting structure requires that the ROTC program report directly to Dr. Dennis Elbert who reports to Dr. Greg Weisenstein who in turn reports to President Kelly. Dr. Elbert will work with the committee to assign a person as "Presidential Designee" to the committee.

**Meeting was adjourned at 15:05 (3:05pm).**