

University of Wisconsin Faculty Document
OFFICER EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013-2014

Military education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison dates from 1866 when the University became a Land Grant institution under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. The Act required the teaching of “military science,” however, for many years it involved little more than a required drilling exercise for all male students. The National Defense Act of 1916 established the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) and a formal program of instruction augmented practice on the field. In 1923, military training became optional at the University.

During World War II the University of Wisconsin continued its commitment to providing well-trained servicemen and women for the America’s Armed Forces. In 1942, Regent President A. J. Glover, in his annual message to the University Alumni, bragged that twelve hundred sailors were enrolled in the radio code and communications school; 480 ‘Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service’ (WAVES) were being trained as radio operators; an Institute of Correspondence Education for Army and Navy personnel was in operation and 2,600 students were enrolled in ROTC. Although for many decades the aging Old Red Gym had served as the campus training facility, during the war the Army and Navy were assured that they would soon have a new permanent headquarters.

Since that time the University of Wisconsin – Madison has continued to meet its Land Grant obligation. Indeed, this one of a few universities that offers students the opportunity to earn a commission in any of the three armed services. We host three departments: Military Science, Naval Science which includes the Marines and Aerospace Studies. The Regents’ contracts with the services provide that each program has full departmental status and enjoys privileges comparable to those of other academic departments on campus. Faculty status is granted to the Commanding officers in the programs [Faculty Policies and Procedures (FPP) 1.02.-1.03.].

The Officer Education Committee [FPP 6.47] consists of the following members: The provost; eight faculty members, one of whom serves as the director of Officer Education Programs; and the commandants of the Officer Education Programs who are ex officio and nonvoting. Its primary charge is to recommend policy relating to Officer Education Programs. The academic components of the Officer Education Program operate under the supervision of the Officer Education Committee (OEC). Members of the committee are chosen from a wide range of departments and disciplines. The Committee on Committees is delegated to make the faculty appointments to the OEC. In addition to their other functions, the OEC examines, for approval, the qualifications of all officers nominated for service on campus. The committee personally interviews and recommends action on nominations of persons to serve as unit commanders, each of whom holds the title professor of military science (FPP 1.03.B.1.). Two former professors of military science are currently on University staff. Kris Ackerbauer is the Assistant Director of the Physical Plant, and John Bechtol is the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for Veteran Services. Both serve as advisors to the OEC and the ROTC programs.

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The combined programs receive more than \$3.3 million each year in federal funds, which are used for student scholarships, salaries of officers, enlisted personnel and civilian support staff, and for supplies. The University of Wisconsin's 2012-13 budget (101) contribution of \$203,886 includes funding for secretarial support for each of the services and for the Officer Education Program (directed by Professor James Johannes, School of Business), miscellaneous support, and for use of an off-campus rifle range.

All classes offered in the three departments conform to university and campus rules, including the laws, policies, and regulations for equity and diversity. Courses offered by the ROTC programs are open to all UW-Madison students. A number of non-ROTC students interested in courses such as navigation or military history, or who are considering the possibility of seeking a commission, take courses in the three programs. Some ultimately enroll in the commissioning program, while others do not.

The military services have established standards for commissioning, and all students who choose to pursue commissions sign contracts before entering the final two years of the program. They receive monthly stipends, the amount depending on their year in college. Subsequent to graduation, commissioned officer graduates are obligated to serve various periods of time on active duty or in the reserves.

Navy-Marine Corps: The Department of Naval Sciences (NROTC) operates under the command of Captain Russ Haas and is located at 1610 University Avenue. The UW NROTC Unit continues to focus its students and resources on technical programs but is pursuing emerging opportunities for advanced language and cultural/regional diversity degree programs as well. The Unit consists of five active duty Naval officers, one senior non-commissioned officer, two federal civilian employees, and one University of Wisconsin classified employee.

- The Badger Battalion began the 2012-13 academic year with 63 students, including 17 new students in its freshman class. In May 2013, it expects to commission 9 new Ensigns in the U.S. Navy and 4 new 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps. At present, 15% of NROTC students are women, and 5% are minority.
- Midshipmen remain active in the UW community, participating in efforts such as the Million Pound Challenge, campus blood-drives, and intramural athletics. During the fall 2012 term, the Midshipman inaugurated a semi-annual tri-service blood donation challenge helping the American Red Cross collect over 150 units of whole blood.
- During the previous academic year, the Battalion maintained a 3.16 GPA and commissioned 17 new officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Scholarships and tuition support payments to the University for the NROTC students exceeded \$900,000.
- The NROTC Staff continued to pursue innovative ways to better integrate Naval Science courses into mainstream university academic majors. Specifically:
 - The Naval Engineering course will soon be accepted by the College of Engineering as meeting their requirement for an entry-level basic engineering course thus causing a 3-credit reduction in course load for a typical midshipman in an engineering program.
 - The History Department has agreed to add specific Naval History topics to its two semester military history series. NROTC Midshipmen will now complete this series in lieu of the Naval Science Sea Power and Maritime Affairs curriculum. Although this will not cause a reduction in course load, it will broaden the scope of military history taught to our students.

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- In cooperation with the other ROTC Units and a university facilities planning team, the NROTC staff is actively engaged in developing the next proposal for a combined ROTC facility.

Army: The Department of Military Science (AROTC) operates under the supervision of LTC W. Allen Henderson, Professor of Military Science. Their headquarters is located at 1910 Linden Drive. The Badger Battalion is the largest of the three ROTC entities, with current staffing set at two officers, three noncommissioned officers, three Department of Army Civilians, four contractors, and one university secretary. It receives supplementary support from the Wisconsin National Guard with an additional officer and three noncommissioned officers.

- On the UW-Madison Campus 160 students are enrolled in AROTC classes (AROTC 100 and 200 level courses), of which 67 are UW student-athletes [football, basketball, men's and women's hockey, rowing, etc.]; with the remaining 73 either contracted, non-contracted, or participating in ROTC program classes. AROTC includes students from other nearby colleges: 3 cadets from Edgewood College; 43 Cadets from UW-Whitewater and 30 Cadets from Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown. In total from all campuses 78 Cadets are actively pursuing a commission and currently contracted with the program. The remaining students are "participating students" who complete the Military Science classes as an academic student, but are not formally enlisted or pursuant to the program. AROTC expects to commission 21 cadets this academic year. Currently 18% of AROTC students are women, and minorities make up 10% of AROTC's contracted population.
- Scholarship (29 students) and Tuition Assistance (22 students) for the UW-Madison students amounts to \$355,522.00; a Resident Tuition Assistance of \$207,691.00, and Non-Resident of \$53,268.00. The total: \$616,481 for the academic year.
- UW-Madison AROTC Cadets have been recognized throughout the previous academic year for exceeding the Cadet Command Leadership Development and Assessment Camp national averages for both Physical Fitness and Recondo, or receiving an overall "Excellent" rating and "Top 5" in 50-person platoon. With one Cadet assigned to UW-Madison AROTC being assessed as the top pre-commissionee for all universities in the State of Wisconsin for the entire 2013 class. Additionally in the coming months four Cadets will complete a summer internship abroad for the Cultural and Understanding Language Program in India, Vietnam, Thailand, and Togo respectively. Finally, Cadets participated in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition resulting in 10 Gold Medals.
- The program has made great strides to extend the sphere of influence of the AROTC unit on campus and within the community; improving upon a "mutually" beneficial relationships with both the University Athletic and Academic Departments alike. Some of the more notable contributions and involvements include the following; establishing new Badger ROTC Website with wisc.edu as the domain to connect ROTC program with UW search engine criteria, integration and assistance from the OEC for accreditation of Military Science credits with the College of Letters & Sciences, assisting in and now representative on the Project GO committee with university language academics to incorporate the Department Of Defense program on campus to improve academia relations and generate language interest among Cadets, assisting in the development of and implementing a US Army Cadet Command Pilot Program for a distance learning Military History Course, coordinated with the WI Army National Guard State Aviation Officer and facilitated efforts with University Administration for the on-campus landing of 2 UH-60s in support of the Spring Combined Field Training Exercise.

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Air Force: The Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC) – Detachment 925 - operates under the supervision of LTC Todd Berge. Its headquarters is located at 1433 Monroe Street across from Camp Randall Sports Center. The Air Force Unit consists of 3 officers, 2 Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO), and one civilian (secretary).

LTC Berge, UW-Madison '93, assumed command of the Unit in the summer of 2010. He will be completing his term this spring. The OEC interviewed and selected LTC Gregory Goar as LTC Berge's replacement as Commander of the Air Force ROTC program. His projected arrival will be sometime in early July. LTC Goar is an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin.

As of fall 2012, the total cadet enrollment was 98 students, including eight from Maranatha Baptist Bible College, twelve from UW-Whitewater, two from Edgewood College, and one from MATC who commute to participate in the UW-Madison program. This was the highest enrollment in at least the past 25 years for AFROTC.

- The graduation class projected for academic year 2012-13 is 9 cadets. Funding, including scholarships and a stipend, is currently being provided to 35 cadets totals about \$460,000 annually.
- The highlight of the past year was undoubtedly the distinction of being number one in the nation out of 145 Air Force ROTC detachments in the Physical Fitness Assessment average. This was the first time Detachment 925 has won this award. LTC Berge has put an emphasis on the Physical Training program. We have also been lauded for being one of only 3 detachments in the Northwest region to be in the top ten of 36 region detachments for both Physical Fitness scores and GPA.
- The Unit achieved a recruiting record of 50 new students this year. A continued emphasis on recruiting should help the unit reach the Air Force's expected graduation rate of 15 per year despite budget pressures limiting the number of AFROTC scholarship awards. Currently, over 25% of Air cadets are female. While the command places a high emphasis on recruiting for diversity, our unit continues to reflect the demographic makeup of Wisconsin's communities. Every effort is being made to improve recruitment among minority groups.
- Congressional budget uncertainties and sequestration make it impossible to project what next year's federal budgetary component will be. Currently all funds are awaiting headquarters AFROTC approval.

Concerns and Recommendations: The primary concern for the ROTC detachments at UW-Madison is physical space. Immediate space and facilities needs have been addressed for the Army and Air Force programs. However, the Naval program is scheduled to be relocated for Phase II construction of the Wisconsin Energy Institute. There are also longer-term concerns for the other services as current facilities age and the programs grow. A dedicated technologically advanced new building is needed. Advanced facilities would support the recruitment and federal funding competitiveness of the UW-Madison ROTC and allow for more efficient use of space by all three units. Presently plans for a new joint ROTC facility located on Lot 16 are in the concept stage. Next year the OEC and the Director of OEP intend to present detailed design plans to the Campus Planning Committee for consideration in the 2015-17 campus biennial budget.

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