

New Brunswick Faculty Council - Student Affairs Committee

Report and Recommendation

Charge: At the October 2 meeting the Student Affairs Committee was given the charge to make a recommendation regarding the possibility of adding a Navy ROTC unit to the existing Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC units at Rutgers.

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Background: In the past Rutgers had Army, Air Force, and Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps units. Each of these units provided educational, leadership training, and scholarship opportunities with a focus on the unique mission of each respective branch of the military. In the past, the Navy ROTC unit was a regional unit and it was discontinued due to a fall off in student numbers. However, interest in NROTC has increased in recent years and the university has been asked by representatives from the Navy to consider re-establishment of a Naval ROTC at the Rutgers New Brunswick-Piscataway campus. Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs Furmanski indicated that the re-establishment of a NROTC unit would not place any financial burden on the university.

The committee gathered information from a variety of sources, including NROTC documentation and input from faculty from the University of Maine where a NROTC unit is currently in place. NROTC provides leadership training opportunities for men and women that is similar to the programs for Army and Air Force ROTC with students completing their training commissioned as either an Ensign in the Navy or a Second Lieutenant in the Marines. The navy offers career paths and other mission related opportunities that are unique compared to the other services and as such attracts students with different academic and long range career interests. As with the other services, students serve in an active duty role and in the reserves with training in specific fields related to their undergraduate training. Students with the appropriate academic credentials are also given the opportunity to pursue further academic training in professional fields such as engineering, law, medicine, etc..

The committee met on 1/22/1010 and discussed the charge and there was agreement that addition of a unit would have no negative effect on the university's budget and that the NROTC would increase scholarship opportunities to the benefit of students. One major question was asked as to what made NROTC different from the programs offered by the Army and the Air Force. Further information was gathered from Navy sources showing that there are unique mission oriented opportunities for students interested in a career in the navy. For example, engineering and other science based careers relative to the operation of the current fleet of modern ships, including those powered by nuclear energy. The Navy also is called into action to provide much of the logistical and other support for humanitarian efforts seen in the response to recent disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, the Navy's regulations allow more leadership opportunities for women. This is related to shipboard opportunities that allow a different set of leadership advancement opportunities that are

limited due to restrictions on service in combat roles placed on women in the other services.

Committee member Gloria Kraft, who is currently serving as the NJ 4-H Military Liaison for Rutgers Cooperative Extension, provided input via email that the Department of Defense and the Navy have a strong interest in New Jersey and educational opportunities for youth, families, and individuals associated with the Naval stations in the state. She highlighted two statewide programs, Operation Military Kids and 4-H clubs on installations like NAVAIR at McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and Earle Naval Weapons Station. The DOD and Navy are interested in infusing support into many programs that interface to provide educational opportunities both on and off base including those like NROTC.

Committee members polled their faculty constituencies regarding the issue with no major objections and overwhelming support for re-establishing NROTC at Rutgers.

Recommendation: Based upon the above information, the NBFC Student Affairs Committee recommends that the university move forward with re-establishing NROTC at Rutgers.