

**OFFICER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-2009**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of a few universities that offer a student the opportunity to earn a commission in any of the three armed services. Military education on this campus dates back to the Civil War. Our status as a land grant university includes an obligation to teach “the military arts,” a duty now fulfilled by the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) programs established by national law in 1916. We host three departments: Military Science, Naval Science and Aerospace Studies. The regents’ contracts with the services provide that each program holds departmental status and enjoys privileges comparable to those of other departments on campus. These laws and our rules give faculty status to the officers accepted to instruct in the programs (*Faculty Policies and Procedures* (FPP) 1.02.-1.03.)

The combined programs receive in excess of \$4.3 million a year in federal funds, which are used for student scholarships, salaries of officers, enlisted personnel and civilian support staff, and supplies. The University of Wisconsin’s 2008-09 budget (101) contribution of \$205,525 includes funding for secretarial support for each of the services and for the program director (Professor John Andrews, Plant Pathology), miscellaneous support, and for use of the MATC rifle range. All courses offered in the three departments are open to all students, including those not seeking commissions. The military services establish standards for commissioning, but all classes conform to university and campus rules. All of the academic programs are available without regard to sexual orientation. As a result, 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, also take courses in all three programs. As a specific example, 12 of 35 students in this spring semester’s (2009) course in Sea Power and Maritime Affairs (NS-102) are non-ROTC. Some ultimately enroll in the commissioning program, while others do not. All students who choose to pursue commissions sign contracts before entering the final two years of the program. They receive monthly stipends with the amount depending on their year in college. Commissioned officer graduates are obligated to serve various periods of time on active duty or in the reserves. The academic components of the officer education programs operate under the supervision of the Officer Education Committee (OEC). Members of the committee are chosen from a wide range of departments and disciplines. 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.) Professor Andrews attended the Association of Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Colleges and Universities Meeting in October 2008 as the representative from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Two former professors of military science who now work on campus in different areas serve as advisors to the OEC and the programs: Kris Ackerbauer (Facilities Planning and Management) and John Bechtol (Office of the Dean of Students).

Navy: The Department of Naval Sciences (NROTC) operates under the command of Captain Ken Auten, occupying space since 1947 in the renovated 1930s-era garage at 1610 University Avenue. The aging facility remains adequate to support the unit’s mission, but is increasingly expensive to maintain. Despite the costs, Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) provides excellent support. During the past year FPM completed a roof renovation and upgrade project. Department of Naval Science staffing currently includes six active-duty Navy/Marine Corps personnel, two federal employees (logistics and administrative assistant) and one UW employee (services associate). Currently the federal administrative position is unfilled. The battalion began the 2008-09 academic year with 65 students enrolled in the Navy and Marine Corps programs, with scholarships and tuition support payments to the university exceeding \$885,700. NROTC expects to graduate and commission 11 students this academic year.

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Army: The Department of Military Science (AROTC) operates under the supervision of Lt Col Jay G. Pitz from a renovated building at 1910 Linden Drive. Staffing is set currently at five officers, three enlisted personnel and three civilians. As of fall 2008, there are 230 students enrolled in AROTC classes: 135 at UW-Madison, 73 at UW-Whitewater, and 22 at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown. Of these, 149 are cadets actively pursuing a commission. The remaining students are “participating students” who take the classes but have not formally enlisted in the program. Scholarship (42 students) and tuition assistance (13 students) for UW-Madison approximates \$898,310 this year. AROTC expects to commission 23 cadets this school year.

Air Force: The Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC) operates under the supervision of Lt Col Chris Eichorst at 1433 Monroe Street, a renovated building (formerly UW Credit Union) across from Camp Randall Sports Center that it shares with the UW Police Department. The unit consists of three officers, one enlisted personnel, and one civilian (secretary). Two of the officers will be reassigned this upcoming year. One is being deployed to Iraq for a year while the other will be rotating out on his normal schedule. Application packages are currently being reviewed for both open positions. As of fall 2008 the total cadet enrollment was 53 students (including 3 Maranatha Baptist Bible College and 7 UW-Whitewater cadets and one Edgewood College cadet who commutes to participate in the UW-Madison program). Graduation projections for 2008-09 are 7 cadets. Funding, to include scholarships and stipends, is currently being provided to 29 cadets totaling about \$313,000 annually.

Concerns and Recommendations: There are two concerns going forward. The first is facilities. None of the ROTC departments have significant immediate facility concerns. Short-term space and facilities issues have been addressed for the most part. However, there are longer-term concerns about facilities as current facilities age and the programs grow. The services and the OEC are both encouraged by the chancellor’s planning and support for a new combined service building. A new building would enhance the competitiveness of the UW-Madison ROTC program and provide for more efficient use of space that could be shared by the three units.

A second significant concern is that UW-Madison may be losing highly qualified ROTC students to other universities. Many universities offer monetary incentives, such as room and board, to ROTC scholarship winners. These incentives steer a prospective student toward a university with a subsidy and away from UW-Madison. For example UW-Madison is not listed on the AFROTC.com link, <http://afrotc.com/scholarships/hsschol/subsidyList.php>, which lists schools with some sort of incentive for ROTC students.

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