Standing Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008 Academic Year

Committee: Military Education Advisory Committee

Chairperson: Jane Karoline Vieth, Ph.D.

Meetings Held: 12 November 2007, 11 March 2008

1. Provide a brief description of committee activities and /or issues discussed and actions taken.

One of the primary duties of the MEAC is to evaluate potential new faculty for the Department of Military Science and the Department of Aerospace Studies.

This year the Department of Military Science had several important personnel changes.

LTC Tom De Filippo retired and was replaced by MAJ James Rouse as Chairperson of the Department.

Captain Jeff Savage and Major Wayne Hutchinson were separated from the Air Force. The Department of Aerospace Studies hired Captain Todd Jagodzinski with MEAC approval. He will resume his duties in the fall 2008. The Aerospace Studies Department continued to be one instructor short.

Status reports of the Department of Aerospace Studies and the Department of Military Science were provided by the department chairs at both MEAC meetings.

The second major responsibility of the MEAC is to provide oversight of the program curricula and to certify academic credit for it from Michigan State University.

2. Comment on matters pending before the committee and matters that should be considered in 2008-2009.

Col. Harvey D. Johnson announced in October 2007 that he will be replaced in the summer of 2009 by a Lt. Colonel.

The cross town agreement with the Department of Aerospace Studies at Michigan State University and Central Michigan will be in place in 1 October 2008 and the first students will be admitted in January 2009.

The aerospace and the military minor are under consideration.

3. Comments on problems and/or issues that have made the work of the committee more difficult. None

4. Please make any suggestions about how the academic governance system might be modified to improve the committee’s work.

In my opinion, the current term limits for members of the MEAC of two, two-year consecutive terms may well be too short for the committee members to adequately serve the unique requirements of the ROTC Departments in which there is often considerable unavoidable turnover in the departments’ academic personnel. The current term limits puts a burden on the Provost
Office’s to find candidates to serve on the board each year. In addition, the rapid turnover of the MEAC members makes their advice less helpful than it would be if members served longer and gained more experience on the committee. It thereby reduces the significance of the MEAC as an oversight body for the ROTC programs. Members serving longer terms, perhaps two, three years consecutive terms would be more familiar with the committee’s responsibilities and be able to move with greater dispatch to serve the programs’ needs. If MEAC had two, three years terms, it would also help to offset the quick rotation of the ROTC cadre of a one, three year term and provide for greater continuity.

This suggestions is based on my own experience as a member of the MEAC and in no way is a reflection of the excellence with which the ROTC Departments at Michigan State University conduct their business.

Jane Karoline Vieth
vieth@msu.edu
September 9, 2008Standing Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008 Academic Year

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