

**UNC NROTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3325  
(919) 962-1198/2344

Minutes of the UNC NROTC Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting held at the UNC NROTC Unit, February 7, 2001.

Board Members present:

Jim Bailer '85  
Richard Cashwell '59  
Bill Foster '80  
Rob Gionfriddo '86  
Don Ledford - staff '80- 87  
Laird Lewis '70 (*President*)  
Wade Phillips '45  
Daniel Rabil '86  
Sam Richardson '92  
Mark Whitson (*Treasurer*)

Board members not present:

Harold Brown '72  
Pat Connelly '85  
Vicki Stephens '82 (*Secretary*)  
Jesse Tillman '86

Others in Attendance:

Captain Haines, (*Commanding Officer*)  
LT Michele Day, (*Battalion Advisor*)  
Brant Burgiss '84 (*Webmaster*)

***President called the meeting to order.***

*This was the first meeting of the new board of directors. All attendees introduced themselves.*

***Update on the Battalion***

Ship Selection for SWO's. Seven SWO's will be commissioned in May. The method of ship selection has changed. All NROTC midshipmen are now ranked against each other based upon grades. Over a three day period they are assigned blocks of time based upon their ranking. During their block of time, they are called by their detailer, they review the ships available on the internet, and they make their ship selection. This current method helps reinforce the idea that better grades will help them compete against their peers. The midshipmen see how their professional future can be influenced by their own efforts rather than just being in the hands of fate.

Cultural changes. Eight midshipmen were not able to do the obstacle course this year because they couldn't remove their bellybutton rings. Staff advising freshmen that they must be able to remove bellybutton rings. Also, tattoos must not be visible above the neckline.

Support needed for midshipmen. Captain Haines will check with the staff and get back to

the association on specific support needed from the Association. A printer might be one of the purchases the alumni association could make for the midshipmen.

#### NROTC Building.

The University plans to tear down Venable Hall by 2005 which will include the NROTC armory. The University owns land and building. The staff is not trying to make it a historical landmark otherwise control of the building is lost. The current plan is to make sure the University understands what the NROTC unit brings to the campus and that the NROTC students do well here. The staff is working with the University to ensure the three ROTC units are provided adequate facilities. The worst situation is that the University levels the NROTC building and inadequate facilities are provided to house the midshipmen south of hospital. A better possibility is that the University will give the unit what it wants - perhaps even becoming part of the new Venable Hall.

#### Navy Scholarships

Previously there were 13 enlisted commissioning programs but they've been reduced to about 8. FY01 was the worst in decades for military dollars. FY02 is worse. Navy has implemented the Seaman to Admiral program and in order to fund the extra \$10,000 per person to support this program, money has been taken out of the NROTC program to fund it. It appears that the out-state tuition scholarships or high-cost school (such as Duke) scholarships has decreased. The number of out-of-state students in the NROTC is currently 40%. Out-of-state midshipmen tend to do well because the investment is higher. This year we'll have 16 students graduating. Next year, the number will be higher. The program is sustainable at 14 so the unit is doing fine at the moment.

#### Surface Nuclear Power

Surface nuclear power officers now spend their first two years aboard a ship in a combat systems tour, receive their warfare pin, then go to nuclear power school. Since this change was established, not one officer has dropped from nuclear power school. After nuclear power school, the officer will spend a 2 or 3 year tour on a carrier followed by shore duty as an instructor which ends their obligation. Surface nukes receive \$29,000 per year on top of regular pay (\$19,000 a year for nuke pay plus \$10,000 SWO incentive bonus). Surface nukes are doing very well.

#### NFO's

Its currently difficult to steer officers toward NFO. Its not perceived as a good career path.

#### Midshipmen

The students are doing well. The quality of students coming in is still as good as its been in the past even though the number of applicants is down. The unit's goal is that all will finish their first tour. Fleetwide, 80% of JO's go to shore duty. Only 1/3 return to sea.

#### Instructors

In the past, ROTC instructors incurred a 2 year obligation to remain on active duty after their tour. This is no longer a requirement so there is a larger pool of available JO's and consequently the quality of instructors is high. Most come here predisposed to get out but this is not perceived negatively by midshipmen.

Even if they don't make the military a career, the unit wants to show the midshipmen how a successful junior officer tour can open up doors and put you ahead of your UNC peers. Captain Haines invited a former officer who worked for him to speak to the midshipmen. The guest was a NROTC graduate of Purdue University, 3.1 GPA, non-technical major, 1150 SAT, went nuclear power on subs, and got into Harvard. He now makes 1/4 million a year as an investment banker.

#### Marines.

This unit has a rich Marine tradition that's known for producing good Marine Corps officers.. 1/3 - 40% go Marine. About 6 or 7 of the 16 graduates this year are Marines.

#### *Secretary's Report*

*(Laird Lewis presented the written secretary's Report in the absence of the Secretary.)*

- Motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion was approved.
- Proposed Changes to Bylaws will be presented at next meeting.
- Membership renewal forms were mailed to 1,325 registration forms to non-life members in which we had addresses. Approximately 80 have been returned due to address changes and remailed to new addresses. Most of these addresses were found through the online GAA member database..
- Directories will be mailed out as soon as most of the registration forms are received.

#### *Treasure's Report (Mark Whitson)*

The Treasurer has focused activities on getting new accounts set up which consists of taking money from the association and moving it into accounts for corporation. Mark does not currently have the authority to make the transfer. Three board members need to be designated for the finance committee

Old accounts have about \$49,000 in checking account. He estimates about \$46,000 needs to be put in various investment vehicles leaving about \$3,000 in our operating funds. Mark recently deposited about \$3,000 in the last week from membership renewals. He's in the process of opening up merchant accounts so the credit card transaction that have come in can be processed. We have just under \$53,000 in total assets of all funds including the four charitable funds and operation cash.

Dave Jackson will be coming up today for a face-to-face turnover. Information on the Scholarship fund was not available at this time. Some of the investment vehicles are not designated by name. Mark just received the Treasurer files in the mail and needs to review them with Dave Jackson in the turnover.

### ***Connor Award***

This year's recipient is a female. Dick Cashwell volunteered to find a female aviator watch.

### ***Membership Growth***

Membership growth appears to be going at the same rate as last year. We really want to push this up to 500. Emphasis needs to be placed on interaction with the midshipmen as a means to get them to join upon graduation. The Scholarship award is a start to increased interaction.

### ***Board Meetings***

As an alternative to 3 board meetings held in Chapel Hill, a proposal was made offer the option of a conference calling to save board members the time and expense of traveling to the meetings. Mark Whitson offered to look into the NC statutes to see if teleconferencing can be legally recognized as a "board meeting". It might be as simple as a change in the bylaws.

***Meeting was adjourned briefly for about 15 minutes.***

### ***Schedule.***

Award's Day is April 7th.

Commissioning is the 19th of May a Saturday at 11:00 in Hill Hall. Graduation will be the next day on Sunday.

Next Meeting will be June 9th in Chapel Hill at 9:00 am. but there may be alternate locations with teleconferencing. NROTC Reunion weekend will be Columbus Day weekend, October 6th. (East Carolina Vs UNC)

### ***Webmaster Update***

In the past, members needed two separate password to access the find-a-classmate feature and to read the online newsletter. Now we can do this with one password.

After most of the registration forms have been received (usually in mid-March) any member who has not renewed his password will lose access to the password-protected areas of the web page.

The webmaster has about 500 e-mail addresses, both dues-paying and non-dues-paying members. He reminded the board that he has the capability to do e-mail blasts with board authorization. He plans do one at the time reminders are sent about the password expirations.

The Alumni Focus needs assistance from the board in generating subjects. This can be a vehicle for telling one person's story from the time they were a midshipman or recognizing their accomplishments, either though the military or civic duties. We'd like to do one once per month or every other month.

At one point we had about 75 entries in the guestbook. The folks that were hosting our guest book were bought out twice. In this second round, all previous entries were lost so we're starting from ground zero again.

### ***Merchant Account***

Mark Whitson will discuss with Brant Burgiss outside of the meeting if there is a way for a credit card charges on the website to be automatically processed. Computer would do the cross-checking and money is automatically transferred in our account. There is a charge associated for this service. The details will be presented at the next board meeting.

### ***Scholarship Update (Don Ledford)***

Four midshipmen have submitted applications for the Scholarship. The Scholarship Board consists of Captain Haines, members of the staff and one member from the Scholarship committee. Sam Gorham was the representative last year. Since he left the Board of Directors, Don Ledford offered to replace him. The Scholarship Board will make the selection in the next couple of weeks. Criteria for the award was reviewed with the board which included 3.2 GPA at the end of the freshman year. Don Ledford proposed that the Scholarship Award be presented on any Thursday at 1530 when all midshipmen are assembled. This visit could also be combined with recruiting of the seniors into the association. Laird Lewis agreed to present the Scholarship on April 5th.

### ***Dawson Memorial Library (Rob Gionfriddo)***

Mrs. Dawson asked for a receipt for her contributions last year. Rob will work with Dave Jackson to get one. Haven't seen the latest CNO's and Commandant of the Marine Corps required reading list yet. Don will keep an eye out for it. Don will find out name of the replacement midshipmen POC this year and pass it along to Rob. In the event the armory is torn down (estimated this would not happen before 2005), staff will need to consider temporary storage for bookshelves and books. Space to accommodate the library (as a common meeting room) has also been communicated to the University. Rob will look into the costs of purchasing more bookshelves.

### **Insurance Committee**

Motion was made to abolish the Insurance Committee. Motion was approved.

### ***New Board Committee Membership***

Alumni Focus. Bill Foster-C, Dan Rabil, Captain Haines.

Awards. Rob Gionfriddo-C, Don Ledford, Will Stubbs

Dawson Memorial Library. Rob Gionfriddo-C, Don Ledford

Database Management. Vicki Stephens-C, Dick Cashwell, Brant Burgiss

Executive Committee. Laird Lewis, Jim Bailer, Don Ledford, Bill Foster

Finance/Investment Committee. Jim Bailer-C, Wade Phillips, Mark Whitson

Memorial Committee. Vicki Stephens-C, Sam Richardson

Membership Growth Committee. Dick Cashwell-C

Professional Management. Dick Cashwell-C, Vicki Stephens, Will Stubbs

Scholarship Committee. Don Ledford-C, Laird Lewis

Reunion Committee. Mark Whitson-C, Laird Lewis, Don Ledford

*Meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,



Vicki S. Stephens  
Secretary