

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN and THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY

MILITARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on Monday 6 June 2011

Present: Dr J Grieve (Convener, UoA), Professor I Broom (RGU), Adjutant D Chapman (AUOTC) (*vice* Lieutenant Colonel M Wardner), Dr A Clark (UoA), Wing Commander M Henderson (HRFCA), Mr J Lemon (UoA), CPO P McCaughran (AURNU) (*vice* Lieutenant M Hutchinson) and Ms Y Gordon (Clerk).

Apologies: Ms C Buchanan (RGU), Professor I Diamond (UoA), Professor A Flin (UoA), Professor J Harper (RGU), Lt M Hutchinson (AURNU), Professor P Robertson (RGU), Lieutenant Colonel M Wardner (AUOTC).

Minutes

1.1 The Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2010.

(copy filed as MEC10/4)

Matters Arising

Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) Project (Minute 6 refers)

2.1 The Committee understood that discussions were ongoing regarding some of the Service Unit's work becoming a recognised role to be able to offer a STAR award to cadets in the future. The Committee urged all three Service Units to take part in these discussions.

2.2 It was agreed that Mr Fantom and the Service Units ensure that contact is made to progress these discussions. Professor Broom undertook to establish if this type of scheme was already in operation at RGU.

Action: All 3 Service Units/Fantom/Broom

Monies Available for Prizes

3.1 The Convener reported that he had recently attended an event hosted by the RAF, in which all other University MEC, *except Aberdeen*, had presented a prize of £50 to its most outstanding cadet.

3.2 It was agreed that the Convener would speak to both University Principals to ask if monies could be made available so that the MEC could be in a position to offer a prize to its best cadets.

Action: Convener

3.3 It was also agreed that the Clerk would ask the Communications office if there was a budget set aside for the MEC which could fund a representative to attend the COMEC conference each year.

Action: Clerk

[Note by Clerk: There is a budget of £500 which is largely taken up by costs associated with the EDL. The Communications office was unaware of any money input to the MEC by RGU.]

Constitution

4.1 The Convener reported that the Principal would prefer the MEC to be more dynamic, with a meeting each term; for it to be more representative across all constituents of the University and not just to those interested in the military. A discussion ensued on the remit and constitution of the committee.

4.2 It was agreed that the Remit and Composition were appropriate, but that the MEC must engage in the activities of its Remit; that there would be a meeting each term.

Action: Clerk

Membership

- 5.1 With regard to current vacancies within the Committee it was agreed that the following be proposed:
- (i) The Vice-Principal (Learning & Teaching) become a member, together with a staff representative from Politics & International Relations;
 - (ii) Professor Broom ask RGU for a replacement to Professor Alexander who had recently retired.

Action: Clerk/Broom

New Military ORBAT

5.2 Adjutant Chapman updated the Committee on the review which has seen all UOTCs under scrutiny, and particularly the four Scottish UOTCs. There was a possibility that the Aberdeen OTC would merge with the Tayforth OTC (currently comprised the Universities of Dundee, Abertay, St Andrews, Stirling), with Stirling moving to a Central Belt OTC and Aberdeen being the preferred option currently to be HQ.

5.3 The Committee agreed that it was important for the community to retain its military formations in the North East of Scotland, to the benefit of the students in this area.

Elphinstone Defence Lecture

6.1 The 2010/11 Elphinstone Defence Lecture took place on Wednesday 20 April 2011 in the University of Aberdeen. The lecture was given by Rear Admiral Nick Harris, the lecture was entitled, '*Defence – Reflections*'.

6.2 It was proposed that Wing Commander Phil Mitchell, who had been in command in Kandahar, Afghanistan, be asked to be the speaker at the 2011/12 Elphinstone Defence Lecture, to take place at RGU.

Action: Lemon

UOTC Centenary

7.1 Adjutant Chapman reported that a Centenary event would be held in Aberdeen in September 2011, and the UOTC was seeking monetary support from the Universities, in the region of £5000.

7.2 The Convener agreed to look into the possibility of a donation but it was suggested that the UOTC consider applying for money from the City's Common Good Fund.

Action: Convener

Date of Next Meeting

8.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee be moved from Monday 5/12/11, to Friday 11/11/11 at 11.30 am. The meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the RGU.

Action: Clerk