

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN and THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY
MILITARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on 3 March 2015

Present: Dr J Grieve (**Convener**, UoA), Professor I Broom (RGU), Ms C Buchanan (RGU), Mr M Combe (UoA), Mr J Lemon (UoA), Major D McEwan (AUOTC), Colonel AK Miller CBE (HRFCA), Sgt L Powles (ESUAS), and Ms Y Gordon (Clerk) with Ms J McKernan (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: Professor Sir I Diamond (UoA), Mr P Fantom (UoA), Professor R Flin (UoA), Professor S Klein (RGU), Professor von Prondzynski (RGU), Mr J Wyllie (UoA) and Dr P Ziegler (UoA).

Minutes

1.1 The Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2014.

(copy filed as MEC/030315/01)

Matters Arising

2.1 There were no matters arising.

Unit Progress Reports

3.1 The Committee considered and noted the reports from the Service Units:

- URNU *(copy filed as MEC/030315/02a)*
- ESUAS *(copy filed as MEC/030315/02b)*
- AUOTC *(verbal report given)*

3.2 URNU –It was a successful recruitment round with 21 new students enrolled. Only 4 students now remain from Aberdeen. The new medical process run by Capita had proved to hinder the process of recruitment as some students were held back from joining whilst they await medical clearance. A smaller recruitment drive was conducted in January and 2 further students joined from that contingent.

3.3 ESUAS – From the 9 academic institutions that ESUAS recruits from 33 new students were offered membership, 8 were recruited from Aberdeen bringing the total membership to 19 in the area. ESUAS also felt that the new medical procedure had affected the efficiency of recruitment.

3.4 ESUAS Sgt Powles reported on the possible restructuring of the University Air Squadrons. There are currently 14 across the country with ESUAS having the largest Squadron and sufficient funds.

3.5 AUOTC – 31 new recruits were enrolled in January and 68 in September with a 60/40% split between the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. The AUOTC supports the UoA Star Awards and was keen to support any leadership training programmes in the future. It was felt that the training offered was transferrable to industry and membership of the AUOTC was not solely for a future in the military.

Representation for the North East Area Committee of the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadet Association

4.1 As Professor Robertson had left the employ of Robert Gordon University they no longer had a representative on the North East Area committee of the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. RGU representatives were invited to discuss a possible replacement. As Mr Lemon was the representative for the University of Aberdeen, and also the Chair, it was felt that a further representative from the University of Aberdeen might also be useful.

4.2 Colonel Miller explained what the role would involve including attendance at annual meetings in March and November and indicated that it was an excellent opportunity to keep up to date with ongoing activities in the cadet forces in the UK. It also aided understanding of the military dimension in relation to universities.

AOCB

5.1 Following attendance of the annual inspection of the RAF the Convener suggested it may be useful for the Committee to undertake an exercise to re-evaluate what our universities are looking for from their military formations and how best to identify a profile that fits for Aberdeen, highlighting the positive aspects of the Units. Nominations were sought for participants to undertake the work. Colonel Miller suggested his successor as a possible candidate.

5.2 The Convener extended his appreciation to Colonel Miller for his services to the MEC over the years. This was his last meeting as he would be retiring in the near future.

5.3 Colonel Miller provided an update on the relocation of the AUOTC to the Gordon Barracks. The relocation was nearly complete and should be finished by the end of the summer vacation with only the IT aspect remaining. The Roy Strathdee building would be returned to the University of Aberdeen.

Date of Next Meeting

6. The next meeting is scheduled to be on Monday 30 November 2015 at 11am.