1964

Joint Recommendations of the ROTC Liaison Committee and Curricular Affairs committee to modify the requirements and credits in basic Military Science.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Transmittal Form for Bills Approved by the Faculty Senate

From: The Chairman, Faculty Senate
To: The President, Dr. Francis H. Horn
Enclosure

1. The attached bill, entitled Joint Recommendations of the ROTC Liaison Committee and Curricular Affairs Committee to modify the requirements and credits in basic Military Science,

is hereby forwarded to you for your consideration.

2. The official original and fifteen copies for your use are attached.

3. This bill was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 16, 1964.

4. After your consideration, will you kindly indicate your approval or disapproval, as appropriate, and either return it or forward it to the Board of Trustees, as you may deem appropriate, completing the appropriate endorsement below.

5. Attention is invited to the fact that this bill will become effective on May 7, 1964 (three weeks after its approval by the Senate), in accordance with paragraph 8.2 of the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate as amended, or in accordance with provisions of the bill, unless it is returned disapproved by the President, or unless referendum is petitioned for by the Faculty, or unless the President decides to forward it, with his approval, to the Board of Trustees for their approval. If it is to be forwarded to the Board of Trustees, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

Afp April 17, 1964
Robert W. Harrison
(Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate

Endorsement 1.

From: The President, University of Rhode Island
To: The Chairman, Board of Trustees of State Colleges

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

(date)

(Signature) President, University of R.I.

Continued on reverse side.
Alternate Endorsement 1.
From: The President, University of Rhode Island
To: The Chairman, Faculty Senate
1. Returned
2. Approved
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Trustees would not be desired by the Board and is unnecessary.

Jan. 20, 1964

(Signature) President, University of R.I.

Endorsement 2.
From: The Board of Trustees of State Colleges
To: The Chairman, Faculty Senate
Via: The President, University of Rhode Island
1. Returned
2. Approved

(date) (Signature)

(Office)

Endorsement 3.
From: The President, University of Rhode Island
To: The Chairman, Faculty Senate
1. Forwarded

(date) (Signature) President, University of R.I.

Received April 22, 1964

(date) (Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate

Original forwarded to Secretary of the Senate and Registrar, E. Farrell, for filing in the archives of the University.

April 28, 1964

(Signature) Chairman, Faculty Senate
REPORT OF THE ROTC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Subject: Academic credits for the voluntary Basic ROTC program approved by the President and adopted by the Board of Trustees (Senate Bill Serial No. 15).

Disposition: This report and its recommendations are prepared for concurrent delivery by the ROTC Liaison Committee and the Senate Curricular Affairs Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Basic Military Science, M.S. I and M.S. II, are usually taken during a student's Freshman and Sophomore years. A total of eight credits, or two credits per semester, are currently given and count toward the total required for graduation. The Professor of Military Science will request a reduction in academic credits for the Basic Military Science program if the recommendations are approved by the University. The following recommendations are offered to become effective with the Freshman class entering the University in September, 1964.

1. Reduce the total number of credits required for graduation by four in all curriculums of the University where Basic Military Science is currently required.

2. Offer Basic Military Science as an integral part of academic programs. The credits thus earned are included toward the total required for graduation. The number of credits awarded for the courses in Basic Military Science are one credit for each semester successfully completed, or a total of four credits covering the four-semester program.

3. Initiate the Modified Basic Program described in Army Training Programs which govern ROTC instruction. The modified program permits a Freshman to substitute 30 classroom hours of regular college courses for 30 hours of ROTC instruction. Courses eligible for substitution are English literature and composition, mathematics, sciences and history, effectively including all individuals. The two semesters of MS I will require 60 hours of military instruction instead of the 90 hours at present. Time allocations will then become:
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| Hours drill: first half of fall and second half of spring semesters | 30 |
| Hours class: second half of fall and first half of spring semesters | 30 |
| **Total hours NS 1** | **60** |

**CONSIDERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS**

A state university is required by law to offer ROTC. The implied obligations for a well-founded and productive program are supported by contractual agreements between the university and the Department of the Army. These agreements specify the following:

1. **Credits:** "To grant academic credit applicable toward graduation for completion of each semester, quarter, or term of the military courses."

2. **Scheduling:** "To arrange for the scheduling of military classes in such a manner as to make it equally convenient for a student to participate in the ROTC as to pursue courses conducted by other departments of the same academic level and to include a member of the department of military science on all faculty committees whose recommendations would directly affect the department of military science."

3. **Enrollment and Production Requirements:**

   "Maintain an enrollment in the Military Science I course of a minimum of one hundred (100) students."

   "Produce a minimum of twenty-five (25) officers each year."

(References: Contract between the Board of Trustees of State Colleges and the Department of the Army, October 14, 1953 Supplement to Agreement March 16, 1962, both under provisions of Section 40, National Defense Act, as amended; Army Regulation AR 145-350)

**IMMINENCE**

Initiation of a voluntary Basic ROTC program poses immediate need for a University policy regarding the eight credits which were given for the two years of required military training. Policy must be established at this time to plan curriculums for the new Freshman class entering the University in September, 1964. In the absence of University policy individual actions by the various colleges might not provide a uniform approach.
CONTACT HOURS AND CREDIT IN NEW ENGLAND STATE UNIVERSITIES

A survey of Basic ROTC conducted by the University's Professor of Military Science during a tour of New England state universities was analysed by the Liaison Committee. Pertinent findings for evaluating ROTC in terms of academic and national defense interests are:

1. Reduction in MS I enrollments upon conversion to a voluntary program at the Universities of Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts were 74%, 60% and 43% respectively.

2. Credits given for ROTC differ at all New England universities, not only in amount but also in kind. For example: no credit is given for graduation at Maine, but credit is included in calculating the overall GPA average. This appears to infringe on the requirements quoted above. Drastic reduction in enrollment at Maine upon conversion to a voluntary program belies their present policy. They have found it necessary to review credit support because, if allowed to continue, this trend could carry enrollments beneath minimum requirement for a land grant institution.

Connecticut, the other New England university experiencing difficulty, has an uneven credit structure supporting its courses: no credit is given in the colleges of Engineering and Pharmacy.

Massachusetts recently changed to a voluntary program supported by four credits counting for graduation. Their 43% reduction in recruitment is the minimum for the three New England state universities initiating voluntary ROTC and is comparable to the national experience (New Hampshire and Vermont still require MS I and MS II).

3. Summary. A concensus of opinions held by the Professors of Military Science at the New England state universities and elsewhere indicates that the following factors contribute to a low rate of recruitment and motivation in a voluntary program: (1) ineffective public relations and recruiting program, (2) low standards of instruction, (3) university academic scheduling which makes it unusually difficult for the student to elect ROTC, and (4) inadequate credit incentives.

The ROTC Department at URI recently received an "outstanding" overall rating during its annual general inspection. Many factors contribute to this accomplishment; one is the positive attitude generally held throughout the Faculty and Administration.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: MODIFIED PROGRAM PERMITTING SUBSTITUTION OF REGULAR ACADEMIC COURSES IN MS I.

1. Incentives arising from new legislation (HR 9124). See January 16, 1964 report of the ROTC Liaison Committee for details.
   
   A. Major influence will probably be qualitative rather than quantitative.
   B. Timing of Congressional action cannot be predicted.
   C. URI is in an advantageous position for a year because a mandatory program was retained for next year's Sophomore class.

2. Initiation of the Modified Program in Basic ROTC (MS I).

   Substitution of 30 classroom hours, regular academic courses, is the Army's effort to reduce the time that ROTC demands in curriculums that become increasingly more demanding. Investigations by the Liaison Committee following its January 16, 1964 report revealed that adoption of a modified program at this time would not complicate transition to the new legislation that Congress is considering. The mechanics of the 30-hour substitution are simple because: (1) there are acceptable subjects for substitution in all curriculums and (2) additional records would not have to be kept by either the college deans or the ROTC Department. The final effect is to reduce student classroom load by 15 hours each semester, and greatly simplify scheduling.

3. The eight credits currently given for MS I and MS II at URI exceed the number given at any other New England state university. New Hampshire awards six credits for graduation, but disposition of credits is under discussion prior to converting to a voluntary program.

4. There is no selective service incentive in either the present program or proposed legislation other than deferment from draft while active in the ROTC program.

5. The practice of giving a QP incentive in calculating a student's overall average to compensate for withholding graduation credits is of questionable value as shown by the experience of the University of Maine.
PERSPECTIVES: ROTC CREDITS IN CURRICULUMS ALREADY SATURATED

1. The President and Faculty have recognized the desirability of reducing the total number of credits required for graduation. Planning should take this into consideration wherever possible, and if possible, without detracting from the quality of existing programs. Adoption of a modified program in MS I would allow Freshman ROTC to be conducted from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons only. This would free for other purposes the Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday periods in the morning and afternoon that are currently reserved in the university scheduling system for MS I and II.

2. The committee investigated a plan for various combinations of ROTC, Physical Education and an elective subject during the Freshman and Sophomore years. An option of this type is offered by Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Clarkson University, Northeastern University and Pratt Institute. Veteran's exemptions could possibly be considered as a precedent for adopting this option at URI. The subject was discussed with the Director of Athletics in hopes of finding a viable middle ground that would serve the interests of both departments and the University. General reaction to the proposal was strongly negative. The future of the curriculum in Physical Education is based upon a "professional program." This program is currently being revised in scope and content. In part, the goals are dependent upon the "service program" which is required of all eligible students during their Freshman and Sophomore years. If tied to another department in any way, adaptations to changing needs would be difficult or impossible. From the viewpoint of the Military Science Department, the option could reduce the number of Physical Education majors and participants in regular sports programs enrolling in Basic ROTC. These men have made particularly good officers.

Considerations in this report involve all curriculums in which male students are commonly enrolled. The Dean of the College of Agriculture and the Dean of the College of Pharmacy were therefore invited to have representatives attend committee meetings. Professors Gerranoughy and McCullough made substantial contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. Ballentine  E. O. Peckham
J. E. Groce  J. F. Quinn
E. W. Hartung  R. J. Zorn
H. P. Jeffries, Chairman