

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
March 8, 2007 - 3:30 p.m., 2116 Fiedler Hall**

Present: Behnke, Bloodgood, Collins, Gormely, Grunewald, Herald, Kearns, McKinney, Shubert, Stokes

Absent: Condia, Maddy, Oberst, Yahnke

Visitor: Art DeGroat, Director of Military Affairs

1. Tom Herald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. The February 15, 2007 minutes stood approved as submitted
3. Colonel Art DeGroat, Director of Military Affairs
Herald welcomed Colonel Art DeGroat and gave the committee a brief introduction about his duties here on campus. Herald also gave a little background regarding FSCOUP and its purpose as well as a brief history of Faculty Senate.

DeGroat thanked the committee for allowing him to visit regarding his position here at the University. He is the first person in his position created here at the University. He recently retired from active duty, and was department head of military science for six years. In that capacity, his charge was to build up the pre-professional program. He wanted to make a larger contribution to the campus and now as Director of Military Affairs he is extending what he had been doing and taken it to a larger scale. He now directly works with increasing military enrollment, in connection with the Vice President for Institutional Advancement and the President. He plays a key role in understanding the military and its operations as well as Kansas State University's mission. In this way, he can help K-State become more available to the military for its needs and increase enrollment.

There are two department heads who really work at supporting the academic part of the program as students arrive, whereas, DeGroat plays the role in actively pursuing new students. The different educational needs of military students vary widely depending on what part of their career they are in. For example, some military students already have a bachelor's degree and are now looking for something more. Other military students are getting ready to finish in the military and may be looking for a degree that will help place them in employment outside of the military.

A lot of work has been done in breaking down the different groups within the military and then identifying what types of programs and degrees these groups need. The Master of Security Studies is a good example of a program that is being used by the Army to place their students here that are their "best and brightest".

Herald asked how faculty here can help him with his job. DeGroat feels more that he is a servant of the faculty. If he finds something that faculty here are potentially interested, he will work aggressively to help make it possible for them. From experience, he has found that if faculty are really interested in pursuing something new, it is worthwhile effort. Everything is a work in progress at this point though. He is trying different methods in order to find the best and most appropriate path to follow to introduce a prospective opportunity.

Faculty are also welcome to bring opportunities to him that they are aware of which could possibly be University/Military related. For example, the College of Human Ecology, in the personal financial area, found a way to educate military families on how to manage their finances. They contacted DeGroat and he is now assisting them in finding a means of getting this out to the soldiers and their families.

Because of the growth at Ft Riley, city government is deeply involved in military affairs. DeGroat does not go to the political meetings and is not a voting member on their committees, but he has been involved in giving pertinent information to city offices. He *has* been involved in committees that have direct impact on the University and Ft. Riley. There will eventually be 18,000 uniform soldiers, which will be the permanent population and soon, the ratio of military students to non-military students will be equal. This was discussed in connection with areas such as Aggieville and how the growth of military population affects the atmosphere. DeGroat has been asked for his informal opinion on occasion regarding this.

Stokes questioned where we are in the scheme of total soldiers. Currently, we have 13,500 out of a total of 18,000. However, 6,500 are deployed temporarily. There will be 18,000 assigned soldiers, plus the 2.5 more persons estimated per soldier when you figure in family, so the civilian workforce growth will be about 2,000 between now and 2011. Stokes then asked when the full amount of soldiers are here, will the university be ready to benefit from that in the services it can provide. DeGroat responded that the growth is welcome and it will replace known markets that are declining. We are one of seven institutions providing degrees on the fort. The other six institutions are Upper Iowa University, Barton Community College, Southwestern College, Central Texas College, Central Michigan, and University of Mary that deliver on the forts. Students are increasingly becoming smart consumers when it comes to their education.

Several groups have been designated to market: soldiers, their spouses, their sons & daughters, the civilian work force, and their families. These are the groups that DeGroat markets to see what K-State can provide for them. He mentioned that childcare is an issue and that it could come down to the fact that a soldier may choose to take education elsewhere due to childcare.

Behnke wanted to discuss the issue of childcare. DeGroat commented that Pat Bosco is involved in this currently and that needs are being assessed. He feels this may be a decade-long problem. Shubert commented that the administration has been discussing this and is doing some initial investigation on what the cost would be and how funds would be made available for a child care facility, if necessary. DeGroat also mentioned that needs are viewed differently. One family may want a child development center with certified care vs. a home-based certified daycare facility.

DeGroat mentioned that in the past couple of years he has been called when a department is trying to hire someone on and they have a spouse who has a degree and would like to teach, but nothing is available on campus. He is able, at times, to find an appropriate position at Ft. Riley due to his person-to-person relationship with them. This has also led to the military calling him trying to find someone, which is a little more difficult.

Is there a website to help military interested in pursuing a degree at K-State? On the K-State Home Webpage, on the right hand side is a link that is excellent use to military and their families. <http://www.k-state.edu/military/>. Also, there will be multiple advertisements for K-State's Open House that will be targeted for the military.

DeGroat is encouraged by the level of assistance and commitment to help make change at K-State. He again thanked the committee for their time. The best way to contact DeGroat is by email (degroata@ksu.edu), or you may reach him by cell phone, 785-210-6570.

Herald thanked him for his time and the information he provided.

4. Announcements

Herald will be gone for the March 13, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting.

Herald reminded all members to review, in detail, Appendix B of the University Handbook for the April 5 meeting at 2:30. Jane Rowlett as well as Marsha Frey will be present.

The committee thanked Stokes for providing the conference room and refreshments for the meeting.

5. For the good of the university
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meetings:

April 5, 2007, review Appendix, B, K, and N, **301 Calvin Hall, 2:30 p.m.**

May 3, 2007, review Appendix B, K, and N, room TBA, 3:30 p.m.