The A&S Faculty Council recommends the approval of the proposed revision of the course approval procedure for Military Science courses, as amended by CASP (#7), and note for the record the position of the A&S faculty on non-discrimination: we do not support the policy of the U.S. military on transgender individuals and we hope through our educational process to move toward the abolition of such policy. (March 13, 2012)

Management of Military Sciences Curriculum: Proposal

The proposal that follows is intended to provide a mechanism for synchronizing aspects of the Military Sciences (MS) curriculum across the four undergraduate Colleges and Schools. The processes recommended here are for the most part codification of existing practices, but allow for a coordinated review of MS credit by situating those courses more clearly within our existing departmental structures. If this mechanism is approved, a review of individual courses would follow.

1. A common motion containing all of the provisions found below must be passed by the four schools.

2. Each school would make its own determination of where an “adopted” Military Sciences course might fit within the curriculum of its school if it should pass. Preliminary conversations have suggested that courses would likely be distributed to departments in the College of Arts and Science, the School of Engineering, and Peabody College. Normal curricular processes would then govern the curricular review.

3. Consistent with current University practice, credit for students whose home school is not the school that adopts the course would be governed by existing rules. For example, should CAS approve an MS course for placement in the AXLE curriculum, such action determines how other schools would “count” the course;
4. Vanderbilt would revive the Officer Education Advisory Committee and empower it to consider and act on proposed appointments of Military Sciences faculty in their capacity as university-level instructors. The Provost would appoint the members of the committee, composition of which is to include two Military Sciences representatives, an academic dean from each of the four undergraduate colleges and schools, and one faculty member from each school. In the event the committee does not approve an instructor, the courses taught by that instructor would not be eligible for academic credit, even if the course had previously received credit under a separate instructor. The oversight committee should make determinations about faculty credentialing that are reasonable.

5. Each school or college would establish a faculty body, or designate an existing one, to act administratively as the “department,” in effect, for the courses approved for credit within the college. Such a committee might choose to review the syllabus and the evaluations of a given course and its instructor, for example. This provision will help to ensure the fidelity of the Military Sciences curriculum to the accreditation requirements of the college or school. Additionally, the schools and colleges would provide warnings in the course catalog and in their communications to undergraduates that these courses “count” academically on a year-by-year basis, subject to the preceding guidelines.

6. The ROTC program would create Learning Outcomes for each course, as well as an assessment plan, that fits the accreditation needs of the individual college or school.

#7. In the College of Arts and Science:

- The academic dean who serves on the Officer Education Advisory Committee must obtain departmental approval for the appointment of any officer education instructor who will teach a course approved for credit in that department;
- Officer education courses must go through existing departmental and College procedures in order to be approved for credit;
- A department that becomes home to an officer education course should review any proposed changes in the course content and assess the instructor’s effectiveness (e.g., by examining student evaluations) at the end of each semester in which it is offered.
- To indicate whether an officer education course is approved for Arts and Science credit in a given semester, a course will be listed with the departmental code (e.g., HIST) when it is available for credit. Students wishing to obtain College credit should sign up for this course listing instead of the MS or NS listing.