

Results of Survey and Forum regarding ROTC and Military Science Courses at CSUSM

Report for Academic Senators, Spring 2014

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I. Background

In Fall 2013, four lower-division Military Science (MILS) courses were brought to the Academic Senate by the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) for consideration. The Senate passed a resolution requesting input from faculty, staff, and students for a full discussion in the Senate about Army ROTC prior to holding the 2nd reading for these Military Science courses.

To fulfill the resolution, the Senate Officers hosted a Forum for Faculty and Staff on March 4, 2014. In addition, the Senate Officers designed a survey that was sent to all faculty and staff on campus on March 6, 2014. We received 178 responses from faculty and 118 responses from staff. Approximately 40 faculty and staff attended the Forum on March 4.

This report presents a synthesis of the discussion at the March 6th Forum as well as of the results of the survey including a synthesis of the written comments provided by survey respondents. In synthesizing the many comments written by faculty and staff about ROTC and MILS courses, we looked for themes that appeared across the comments; these themes constitute the titles for our main summative categories in those sections of the report.

II. Report from Open Forum

- a. Senate Chair Vivienne Bennett provided a recap of Senate activity regarding MILS courses and ROTC during this academic year.
- b. There was a 15 minute Q&A period for faculty and staff to ask questions of Army Major Richard Cotte (one of the ROTC leaders at SDSU and the officer in charge at CSUSM), who attended the meeting solely during this 15-minute period to be a resource for the Q&A. Topics addressed by the questions included whether MILS courses address LGBTQ issues, how critical thinking is taught in MILS courses, how MILS instructors are reviewed, the downsizing of ROTC nationally, the racial/ethnic/gender composition of ROTC in San Diego County, and the use of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. At the end of the Q&A, Major Cotte left the room.
- c. Demographics of ROTC Enrollment at SDSU Host Program (including SDSU, USD, Pt. Loma Nazarene, UCSD, and CSUSM)
 - 162 students
 - 25% women
 - 6% African American
 - 9% Asian American
 - 19% Latino
 - 1% Native American
 - 53% Caucasian
- d. Senate Chair Bennett laid out three themes for the discussion among faculty and staff. What do we think are the pros and cons of:
 - i. approving the 4 lower-division MILS courses as CSUSM course offerings.
 - ii. approving the 4 upper-division MILS courses as CSUSM course offerings.
 - iii. becoming a host campus for Army ROTC (note: Army ROTC representatives have stated they do not intend to ask CSUSM to become a host campus).
- e. Discussion:
 - i. Senate had this conversation several years ago, formed ROTC study group in 2008-09, decided not to offer MILS classes. Despite Senate recommendation those MILS classes ARE currently held on campus (even though credits still have to transfer from SDSU). Students still register at SDSU but 6 of the 8 classes are physically taught at CSUSM. Concern-- does it matter what Senate says, since last recommendation wasn't followed?
 - ii. ASI Board of Directors voted last week in support of 4 lower division MILS courses.

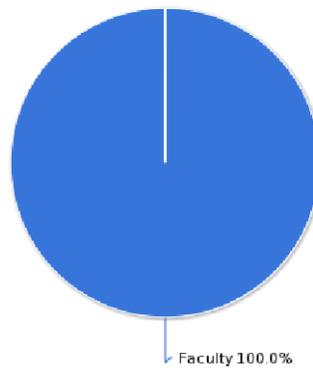
- iii. We are known as a military-friendly campus. If we do not approve the MILS courses this can make us look close-minded and also may have an adverse effect on the Vets here.
- iv. The mission of CSUSM is to serve regional needs. We can't disregard that our region has a large military presence.
- v. ROTC 'dovetails' well with some majors on campus for a career path: Nursing, Global Logistics and Management, others.
- vi. Scholarships help students pay for their education.
- vii. Let's provide the option so students can make their own decisions. Having the lower-division courses lets students experience coursework prior to making a commitment to ROTC.
- viii. Many veterans return with severe damage – physically and/or emotionally. It's hard to justify approving the MILS courses given the potential for damage to our students.
- ix. Concerns about the redundancies across the four lower-division courses.
- x. Concerns about the academic integrity of the four lower-division courses.
- xi. There is an epidemic of sexual harassment and abuse in the military, to the extent that the U.S. Senate has been holding hearings on this and on how to create a process to provide justice for victims and punishment for perpetrators.
- xii. Raising concerns about having ROTC presence on campus should not be equated with intolerance or close-mindedness. In a reasonable discussion it is legitimate to raise concerns and talk about them. Statistics show veterans will have various issues after their service, so it's not close-minded to ask questions.
- xiii. To oppose an ROTC program at CSUSM should not be equated with not supporting vets or not serving our students. We can serve our students well and support vets on campus and yet not have ROTC courses on campus.
- xiv. Can we make ROTC at CSUSM a 'CSUSM experience' by adding an additional required class designed by our faculty that would address the issues that concern some faculty?
- xv. Separate the issues: the needs of veterans (serving our veteran students) VS. cultivating future military leaders ("pipeline") via ROTC.

III. Report on Survey Results

1) Faculty responses

a) Pie charts and data regarding faculty responses to the survey

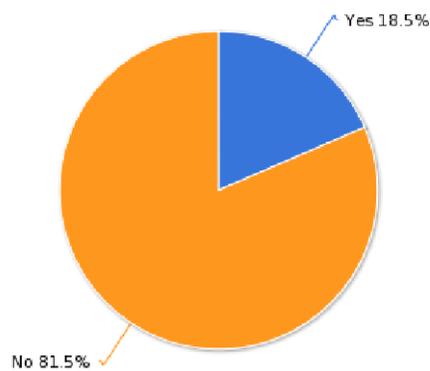
1. What is your primary role at CSUSM?



Value	Count	Percent
Faculty	178	100.0%
Staff	0	0.0%

Statistics		
Total Responses		178

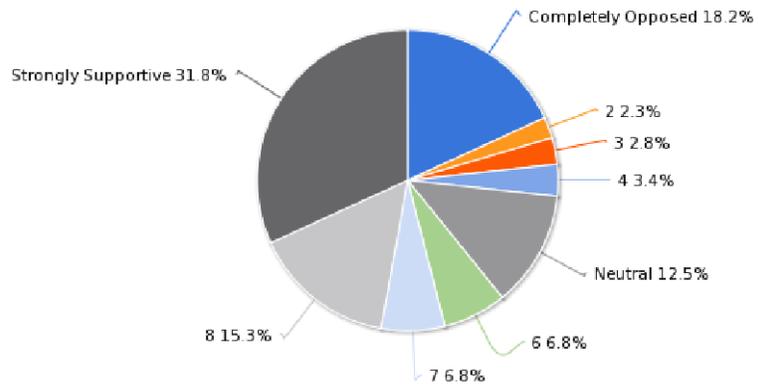
2. Did you attend the Open Forum regarding ROTC for Faculty and Staff on March 4, 2014?



Value	Count	Percent
Yes	33	18.5%
No	145	81.5%

Statistics		
Total Responses		178

3. My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum (so students would register for the courses and receive credit through CSUSM) is:

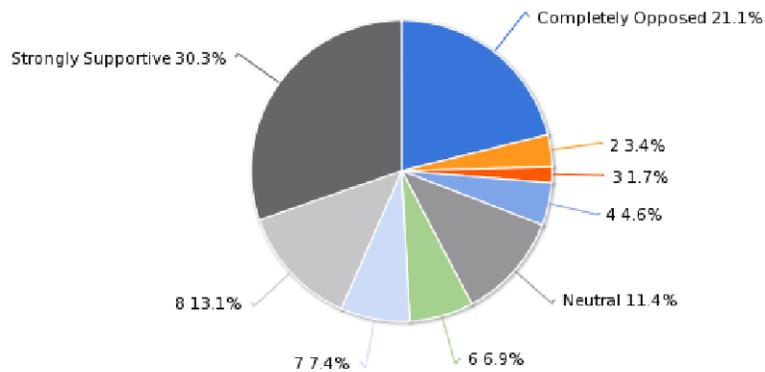


Value	Count	Percent
Completely Opposed	32	18.2%
2	4	2.3%
3	5	2.8%
4	6	3.4%
Neutral	22	12.5%
6	12	6.8%
7	12	6.8%
8	27	15.3%
Strongly Supportive	56	31.8%

Statistics

Total Responses	176
Avg.	6.1
StdDev	3.0

4. My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four upper-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum (so students would register for the courses and receive credit through CSUSM) is:

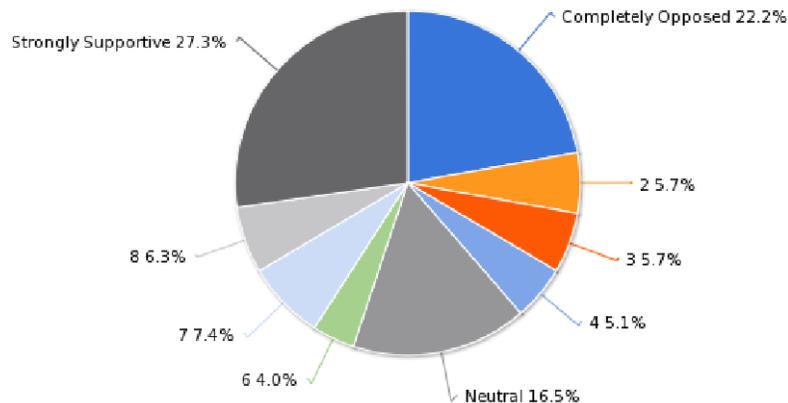


Value	Count	Percent
Completely Opposed	37	21.1%
2	6	3.4%
3	3	1.7%
4	8	4.6%
Neutral	20	11.4%
6	12	6.9%
7	13	7.4%
8	23	13.1%
Strongly Supportive	53	30.3%

Statistics

Total Responses	175
Avg.	5.8
StdDev	3.1

5. My position regarding becoming a Host ROTC program at CSUSM is that I am:



Value	Count	Percent
Completely Opposed	39	22.2%
2	10	5.7%
3	10	5.7%
4	9	5.1%
Neutral	29	16.5%
6	7	4.0%
7	13	7.4%
8	11	6.3%
Strongly Supportive	48	27.3%

Statistics

Total Responses	176
Avg.	5.2
StdDev	3.1

b) Faculty: Overall Support/Opposition (Support was calculated by totaling all the scores of 6,7, 8, or 9 on survey; Opposition was calculated by totaling all the scores of 1, 2, 3, or 4 on survey)

i) Question 3 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Support: 60.7% Neutral: 12.5% Oppose: 26.7%

ii) Question 4 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four upper-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Support: 57.7% Neutral: 11.4% Oppose: 30.8%

c) Faculty: Strongly support (calculated by totaling all the scores of 8 or 9 on survey) or strongly oppose (calculated by totaling all the scores of 1 or 2 on survey)

i) Question 3 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Strongly support: 47.1% Neutral: 12.5% Strongly oppose: 20.5%

ii) Question 4 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four upper-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Strongly support: 43.4% Neutral: 11.4% Strongly oppose: 24.5%

d) Faculty: Written Comments in Support of ROTC

I. The CSUSM Mission includes meeting regional needs as well as Inclusiveness and Diversity. The military is a major sector of San Diego County, so supporting ROTC activities/courses at CSUSM derives from our Mission Statement. Inclusiveness and Diversity should extend to students who want to consider or are enrolled in ROTC.

II. ROTC constitutes an Opportunity for Students:

- a. Financial support.
- b. Career path.
- c. Provides 2 years of lower-division courses so students can make an informed decision before committing to ROTC in junior year.

III. Offering MILS courses through CSUSM will provide Benefits for CSUSM Students taking the MILS courses:

- a. Our students will be able to register at CSUSM instead of going to SDSU to register.
- b. Offering the MILS courses at CSUSM may attract more of the students from the region who are interested in ROTC, and they will benefit from attending CSUSM with its focus on inclusiveness and diversity.
- c. Opportunity for non-ROTC students to take the MILS classes.
- d. Students want the MILS courses at CSUSM.

IV. Miscellaneous comments

- a. We call ourselves a 'military-friendly' university.
- b. As an institution with significant state and federal support, it is inappropriate to oppose ROTC.
- c. Provide MILS courses at CSUSM and let students have the choice.

- d. There are other organizations whose practices we might disagree with – such as Apple’s operations in China – but we don’t ban them from campus.
- e. We should provide as many diverse experiences as we can for students to pursue their educational dreams.
- f. If we offer the classes here, we get the tuition money. Why let SDSU get it?
- g. CSUSM students already take MILS courses and are ROTC cadets. That is not going to change. Now we have the chance to make life easier for them by offering the MILS courses at CSUSM officially.

e) Faculty: Written Comments Opposing ROTC

- I. Concerns about Rigor of Course Content
 - (a) The MILS syllabi lack rigor.
 - (b) Course content is not up to CSUSM standards.
 - (c) Courses have little academic content.
 - (d) Courses lack critical thinking.
 - (e) Course content is very repetitive across 1st and 2nd year.
 - (f) Courses should include reflection on current problem issues in the military.
 - (g) The lack of rigor in these courses means that if we allow them through the curriculum process, we would allow coursework that no regular CSUSM faculty member would be able to successfully propose.
 - (h) Courses should be updated to include equity issues and more updated leadership theories.
 - (i) No evidence about how the MILS courses will be assessed.
- II. The Goals of the military and the university are Not Compatible
 - (a) The University is not the place to promote war.
 - (b) A university education should be to promote peace, cooperation, and lifting people out of poverty.
 - (c) The University should not be a place where we prepare students to go to war and then they come back physically and mentally damaged.
- III. ROTC – Opportunities for Whom?
 - (a) Today’s US military is a poverty draft; since the draft was abolished, military recruiters rely on economic inequality and target young people who have the fewest economic options – disproportionately drafting young people from poor families.
 - (b) Today’s US military disproportionately drafts young people from communities of color.

- (c) Poor families and families of color disproportionately pay the cost in the form of the physical injuries and mental disorders of returning vets.
- (d) ROTC creates a pipeline to channel students of color and students from poor communities away from viable careers in other fields, including work in the STEM industries, and instead places them on a career path that may include death, dismemberment, depression, isolation, homelessness, and other realities faced by both current service members and veterans.

IV. Concerns about Violations of Shared Governance

- (a) Lack of transparency about the fact that Army ROTC is already offering classes on campus.
- (b) There was a disregard of shared governance when Army ROTC was allowed classrooms for the MILS classes on campus.

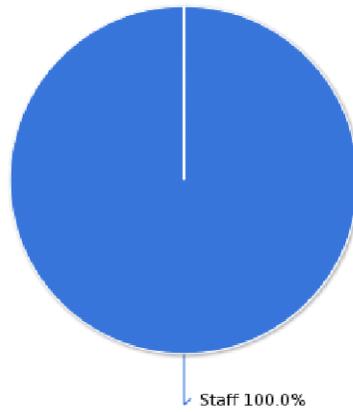
V. Miscellaneous Comments

- (a) Don't confuse opposition to ROTC and support for Vets, the two coexist perfectly well.
- (b) While 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' has been officially eliminated, sexual harassment and assault of women has not been addressed properly by the military.
- (c) MILS instructors do not have terminal degrees appropriate for university-level teaching yet students get university credit for the courses.
- (d) When we are constantly being told that we need to hold FTES down because we exceed enrollment targets, it doesn't make sense to spend FTES on the non-academic MILS courses.
- (e) Military training and Military Science coursework do not present students with a balanced and realistic description of what the transition to civilian life after military service entails.
- (f) Suggestion: create an additional upper-division course that would be a co-requisite with the upper-division MILS courses. This course would provide the material that is missing from the MILS courses – critical thinking about military issues, other theoretical perspectives about war, more extensive exploration of sexual harassment in the military and of the impact of the military on communities of color and poor communities, etc.
- (g) Concerns about ROTC use of classroom space and its impact on room availability.

2) Staff Responses

a) Pie charts and data

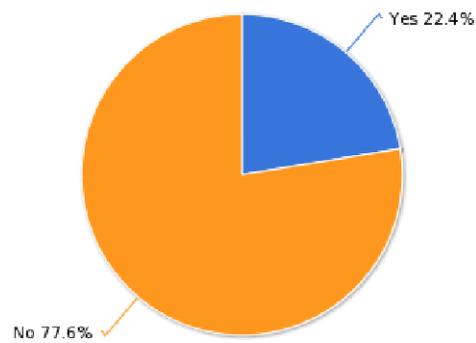
1. What is your primary role at CSUSM?



Value	Count	Percent
Faculty	0	0.0%
Staff	118	100.0%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118

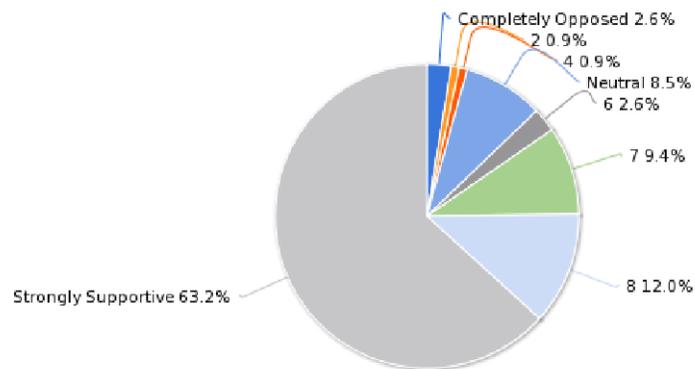
2. Did you attend the Open Forum regarding ROTC for Faculty and Staff on March 4, 2014?



Value	Count	Percent
Yes	26	22.4%
No	90	77.6%

Statistics	
Total Responses	116

3. My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum (so students would register for the courses and receive credit through CSUSM) is:

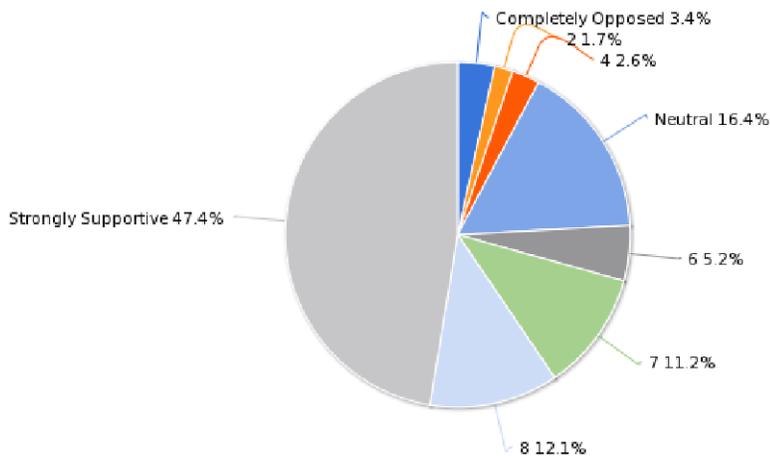


Value	Count	Percent
Completely Opposed	3	2.6%
2	1	0.9%
3	0	0.0%
4	1	0.9%
Neutral	10	8.6%
6	3	2.6%
7	11	9.4%
8	14	12.0%
Strongly Supportive	74	63.3%

Statistics

Total Responses	117
Avg.	8.0
StdDev	1.8

5. My position regarding becoming a Host ROTC program at CSUSM is that I am:



Value	Count	Percent
Completely Opposed	4	3.5%
2	2	1.7%
3	0	0.0%
4	3	2.6%
Neutral	19	16.4%
6	6	5.2%
7	13	11.2%
8	14	12.1%
Strongly Supportive	55	47.4%

Statistics	
Total Responses	116
Avg.	7.3
StdDev	2.1

b) Staff: Overall Support/Opposition (Support was calculated by totaling all the scores of 6,7, 8, or 9 on survey; Opposition was calculated by totaling all the scores of 1, 2, 3, or 4 on survey)

i) Question 3 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Support: 87.3% Neutral: 8.6% Oppose: 4.4%

ii) Question 4 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four upper-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:

Support: 82.9% Neutral: 9.4% Oppose: 7.7%

c) Staff: Strongly support (calculated by totaling all the scores of 8 or 9 on survey) or strongly oppose (calculated by totaling all the scores of 1 or 2 on survey)

- i) Question 3 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four lower-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:
Strongly support: 75.2% Neutral: 8.6% Strongly oppose: 3.5%
- ii) Question 4 - My position regarding whether or not CSUSM should include the four upper-division MILS courses as part of the regular CSUSM curriculum:
Strongly support: 70.1% Neutral: 9.4% Strongly oppose: 4.3%

d) Staff: Written Comments in Support of ROTC

- I. ROTC provides career opportunity for students.
- II. The CSUSM Mission values diversity and inclusiveness.
 - a. This means inclusive of all students – regardless of views or career choices.
 - b. This means inclusiveness on campus of all viewpoints – including military.
 - c. One purpose of college is for students to be exposed to many perspectives. We should promote diverse views on campus, including ROTC.
- III. ROTC is responsive to area needs – we are a military-friendly campus in a region with a strong military presence.
- IV. Students want ROTC so CSUSM should provide it.
 - a. Prospective students ask if we have this when they visit campus.
- V. Having MILS classes on campus is an opportunity to educate future Army officers and expose them to the multiple perspectives CSUSM values.
 - a. ROTC and MILS students benefit from being here at CSUSM – we are training military leaders with the values of CSUSM.
- VI. We are already basically doing it already (offering MILS classes on campus) – why stop students from registering at CSUSM?
 - a. We have awarded transfer credit since the campus opened, why not offer the courses here?
- VII. ROTC provides access to higher education that some might not otherwise have.
- VIII. CSUSM does business with many vendors we disagree with and we don't stop that practice.

e) Staff Comments Opposing ROTC

- I. Support veterans, but do not send young people into combat.
- II. The MILS courses do not look like college-level, academically-oriented courses.
- III. With campus' FTES-shortage, why use FTES for courses for the military?

IV. Appendix 1: FAQs about ROTC and Military Science Courses (Prepared by David Barsky and Vivienne Bennett, and reviewed by Lt. Col. Turner, Army ROTC, Draft 3-2-14)

1. When was the last time that Army ROTC was discussed at CSUSM?

- ROTC was discussed by the Academic Senate in Spring 2008.
- A Study Group on ROTC was jointly charged by the Senate and the Provost, and carried out its work in AY 2008-09.
- The Study Group prepared a report (available here: www.csusm.edu/senate/reports/reportsPDF/ROTC_%20Final04072009.pdf), which recommended that “ROTC courses should not be offered as long as the military policy of exclusion (‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’) is in place.”
- The military ended ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ on September 20, 2011.

2. What exists currently at CSUSM in terms of Army ROTC?

- Army ROTC began holding SDSU MILS courses for CSUSM students at the University Village Apartments in Fall 2008.
- Starting in Spring 2012, after the UVA ended its contract to provide space to ROTC, the SDSU MILS courses for CSUSM students began to be taught in campus classrooms. While MILS 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, and 302 are currently taught on the CSUSM campus, CSUSM students have to travel to SDSU to register for the courses, which are SDSU courses, and then transfer course credit to CSUSM upon completion.
- Army ROTC has 3 offices on the 6th floor of Craven Hall since 2009 and more recently a storage container for equipment near the Mangrum Track.
- Army ROTC Student Leaders: a student club

3. Why are we discussing ROTC now?

- In Fall 2013, 4 Lower Division Military Science courses to be housed in COBA were brought to the Senate for consideration. The Senate passed a resolution requiring input from faculty, staff, and students for a full discussion in the Senate about ROTC prior to considering the Military Science courses. The objective of the Open Forum for Faculty and Staff held on March 4, 2014, and the subsequent survey sent to all faculty and staff is to gather feedback from faculty and staff regarding both ROTC and its Military Science courses to inform the Senate’s discussion.

4. What is ROTC?

- ROTC is the Reserve Officer Training Corps
- ROTC is a college-based program that exists at hundreds of colleges/universities across the United States for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces. ROTC students attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and officer training for their chosen branch of service through the ROTC unit at or nearby the college. The students participate in regular drills during the school year, and extended training activities during the summer (Wikipedia, ROTC)
- There are distinct ROTC programs for Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, and Navy ROTC (includes Marines)

5. By enrolling in ROTC, are students joining the Army?

- Students who participate in ROTC take Military Science (MILS) courses for which they receive college credit as elective units.
- Any student can take any of the lower-division MILS classes, whether they are participating in ROTC or not. Even international students may take them.
- To register in the upper-division MILS courses, students must make a commitment to ROTC prior to the start of their junior year in college. This commitment means that upon graduation from college, cadets will accept a commission either for active duty in the Army, with the National Guard, or with the Army Reserves.

6. Is ROTC like "boot camp"?

- No. ROTC cadets are in college to earn a regular Bachelor's degree.

7. What can students expect to learn by taking ROTC?

- Leadership and management skills needed to become a U.S. Army officer. These skills also contribute to civilian careers.

8. Is there a military obligation during college?

- During the first two years, ROTC cadets have no military obligation (or the first year in the case of scholarship recipients).

9. What is the ROTC program comprised of?

- The ROTC program is divided into 2 two-year phases: The Basic Course program – first year and sophomore year -- includes Army history, organization and structure. The techniques and principles of leadership and management are stressed throughout. The Advanced Course program – junior and senior years -- concentrates on tactical operations and military instruction, as well as advanced techniques of management, leadership, and command.

10. Which branch is proposing courses at CSUSM now?

- Army ROTC is currently the only branch proposing courses. There has been no contact from the other branches of the Armed Forces.

11. What do CSUSM students who want to participate in Air Force or Navy ROTC do?

- They go to the Air Force ROTC program at SDSU or the Navy ROTC program at SDSU or USD
- This means that they go to SDSU (or USD) weekly for all their ROTC coursework

12. What are MILS courses?

- MILS – Military Sciences courses
- There are 8 military science courses that constitute the program of study for ROTC students at U.S. colleges and universities.
- Students take one per semester for four years: MILS 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, and 402
- MILS 101: Intro to Leadership I (CSUSM course title)
- MILS 102: Intro to Leadership II (CSUSM course title)
- MILS 201: Foundations of Leadership I (CSUSM course title)
- MILS 202: Foundations of Leadership II (CSUSM course title)
- MILS 301: Adaptive Tactical Leadership (SDSU course title)
- MILS 302: Leadership in Changing Environments (SDSU course title)

- MILS 401: Developing Adaptive Leaders (SDSU course title)
- MILS 402: Leadership in a Complex World (SDSU course title)

13. What is the difference between an Army ROTC Partner or Satellite campus (like CSUSM) and an Army ROTC Host campus (like SDSU)?

- At a Partner Campus like CSUSM, there are students who enroll in Military Science (MILS) courses that may be held on their campus or at the nearest Host campus. In addition, there may be 2-3 offices on the campus occupied by ROTC cadres who manage the Partner campus programs and teach the MILS courses if offered on the campus. There may be a space provided to ROTC to store equipment.
- A Host campus, like SDSU, includes:
 - A Battalion of ROTC students that includes the ROTC students from that campus and may include ROTC students from regional partner campuses. The ROTC Battalion at SDSU includes the ROTC students from CSUSM, USD, Pt. Loma Nazarene College, UCSD, and CSUSM.
 - The regional leadership of ROTC
 - Funding from ROTC and the campus
 - A Department of Military Science with a Lt. Colonel in charge. At SDSU, this department consists of a Lt. Colonel as the Department Chair, 8 additional officers as faculty, and 3 civilians as staff.

14. When did CSUSM students first start taking MILS courses at SDSU and transferring the unit credit back to CSUSM?

- Air Force ROTC first appears in the 1994-95 CSUSM Catalog
 - CSUSM students take the entire program at SDSU
- Navy ROTC first appears in the 2002-04 CSUSM Catalog
 - CSUSM students take the entire program at SDSU
- Army ROTC first appears in the 2002-04 CSUSM Catalog
 - See the answer to Question 13 for details
 - There is a cross-enrollment agreement between CSUSM and the Dept. of the Army, dated Fall 1991.

15. Does the Army plan to establish an ROTC Host program at CSUSM?

- No, the Army does not want CSUSM to become a Host campus for ROTC.
- The Army is in the process of reviewing the status of ROTC programs nationwide for possible elimination.

16. What is the Army requesting of CSUSM?

- The Army would like CSUSM to approve MILS 101, 102, 201, and 202 as CSUSM courses.
- The Army has communicated a wish to bring the upper division courses for approval and inclusion in the CSUSM catalog in the next year (MILS 301, 302, 401, and 402).

17. When do CSUSM ROTC students have to go elsewhere for their ROTC activities?

- They go to SDSU to register for classes.
- They go to SDSU every Thursday for a leadership class. Round-trip transportation is provided by the Army.
- Some other activities each semester take place at field locations.

18. What will change for CSUSM students if the MILS classes are approved and are listed as part of CSUSM's curricular offerings?

- They will be able to register for the courses together with their other CSUSM courses through MyCSUSM.
- They will not have to transfer course credit each semester because their MILS courses will be part of their CSUSM transcript as with any other CSUSM course they take.
- CSUSM students will still have to go to SDSU on most Thursdays for the leadership class, and the Army will continue to provide transportation for them. But on some Thursdays they will be able to take the leadership class on our campus.

19. Are all college degree programs compatible with Army ROTC?

- Yes, Army ROTC students are allowed to major in nearly all academic areas.

20. Who can take ROTC courses?

- MILS 101, 102, 201, 202: Any student can take any of these MILS classes, whether they are participating in ROTC or not. Even international students may take them.
- MILS 301, 302, 401, 402: To register in these courses, students must have made a commitment to ROTC prior to the start of their junior year in college. This commitment means that upon graduation from college, cadets will accept a commission either for active duty in the Army, with the National Guard, or with the Army Reserves.