

3/2/2014

MEMORANDUM

To: SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly

From: Cadet Kevin Winant

Subject: Reinstatement of ROTC Office on Oswego Campus

Approximately ten years ago the SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly voted to sever ties with the ROTC Program until such time as the army's policy towards gay and lesbian soldiers (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) was changed. Subsequently, the college administration, faculty and students lobbied Congress to change the discriminatory policy. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is no longer the policy in the U. S. Army. Gay and lesbian soldiers have been welcomed into the ranks of all services.

SUNY Oswego, at one time, had a ROTC contingent on campus which enrolled approximately forty cadets. At this time the enrollment consists of 1 senior, five juniors, 4 sophomores, and 2 freshmen. At the same time enrollment at other SUNY Schools remains strong. Certain schools, such as Plattsburgh and Brockport, maintain large ROTC Programs. Others such as Geneseo, Cortland and Alfred have cooperative agreements with RIT, Cornell and St. Bonaventure.

At the current time SUNY Oswego students enroll at Syracuse University where they take their required ROTC classes. Many students, especially underrepresented groups, enroll in ROTC in order to help pay the bills associated with a college degree. The majority of our country's officers are not graduates of the US Military Academy at West Point. Most, including General Colin Powell, receive their commission through ROTC at liberal arts institutions such as SUNY Oswego.

Our program will not be rebuilt in a day, especially in the current federal budgetary environment. However, in order to better serve the current and future Oswego Cadets we are **requesting that the "Ban" on ROTC be lifted** and that the students enrolled in the Syracuse University ROTC Program (the school with which we are affiliated) **be afforded a small office on campus** for the purpose of recruitment and advisement of students.