

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Ron Mazor
University Senator
rotc-taskforce@columbia.edu

Columbia University Senate Task Force on Military Engagement Announces Spring 2011 Process on Reserve Officers Training Corps

NEW YORK, January 28, 2011—The Columbia University Senate Task Force on Military Engagement announced today a comprehensive three-part process in the spring 2011 semester to address the Reserve Officers Training Corps and other issues related to the University's engagement with the Armed Forces of the United States.

The goal of this process is to provide the University Senate adequate information and context to issue a recommendation on Columbia's engagement with the Armed Forces of the United States by the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, including formal participation in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. The process will be non-partisan in nature with a focus on listening to the opinions of the University community.

First, the Task Force has created a non-partisan information resource website. This website does not advocate for any side, but rather provides basic information on the Reserve Officers Training Corps program, its history at Columbia University, and additional ongoing exchanges with the Armed Forces of the United States. Relevant historical documents are also made available. The website may be found at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/militaryengagement/>.

Second, the Task Force will hold a series of University-wide public hearings. These hearings will provide a forum for individuals to discuss the issues in an open and constructive manner. The hearings will be open to all Columbia University ID holders, and endeavor to address specific segments of the University community. Each hearing will be hosted by a major University leader.

Details of the hearings are as follows:

- Monday, February 7, 2011 – Focused on the general University community
Opening remarks by Sharyn O'Halloran, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee
417 International Affairs Building (Altschul Auditorium), 8 PM – 10 PM
- Tuesday, February 15, 2011 – Focused on the undergraduate population
Opening remarks by Michele M. Moody-Adams, Dean of Columbia College
309 Havemeyer Hall, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday, February 23, 2011 – Focused on faculty and graduate students
Opening remarks by Claude M. Steele, Provost and Dean of Faculties
417 International Affairs Building (Altschul Auditorium), 8 PM – 10 PM

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Third, the Task Force will actively solicit opinions from the Columbia community. The Task Force welcomes all submissions and has established the rotc-taskforce@columbia.edu e-mail address to collect feedback, statements, and other reactions from members of the Columbia community.

The Task Force will also distribute a poll to students of Columbia College, the undergraduate population of the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, Barnard College, and the School of International and Public Affairs, to record opinions about Columbia University's engagement with the Armed Forces of the United States and the Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

“By polling all schools that have had any level of student participation in ROTC in the past five years, we have tried to make the poll both broad and representative,” said Ron Mazor, CC '09, Law '12, and Co-Chair of the Task Force. “At the same time, we hope that our open submission policy will ensure that everyone in our community who cares about the issue will be able to express their opinion and provide feedback.”

The Task Force will then submit a final report to the University Senate. The report will include a reflection of campus opinion and a comprehensive record of the debates, discussions, and reactions to the Task Force's events. The report will be published and made publicly available prior to the University Senate meeting of March 4, 2011.

About the Columbia University Senate

The Task Force on Military Engagement is a non-partisan facilitator of discussions about military engagement on campus with a strong focus on the issue of formal participation in the Reserve Officers Training Corps program. It comprises five students and four faculty members.

The Columbia University Senate is the University-wide legislative and policy-making body at Columbia University. It is mandated to consider all matters affecting more than one school, or the entire University. Its 108 elected and appointed members represent faculty, students, administration, staff, alumni, librarians, and research officers. The Senate was established in 1969.