

Office of the President

3/13/69

na yab:

Dr. Pitzer asked
me to send you this
new release, which
he believes answers
the questions raised
in your note of 2/12/69

Regards
Fred Glover

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Trustees of Stanford Tuesday (MAR. 11) called ROTC "vital to the continued supply of civilian leadership for the military service" and urged President Kenneth S. Pitzer to continue negotiations with Defense Department officials "leading to appropriate actions which will improve and vitalize this important program."

The Board's action made no mention of academic credit for ROTC courses, a subject which will be considered by the Stanford Academic Council at its next regular meeting April 4.

The Board urged that "any action taken with respect to ROTC give full weight to the following:

- A. That this nation has a strong and valued tradition of civilian participation in military leadership;
- B. That deterioration of that tradition would move us very quickly toward the emergence of a military caste;
- C. That ROTC is vital to the continued supply of civilian leadership for the military services, and it is of crucial importance that first-ranking institutions, such as Stanford, lend their strength to that task; and
- D. Further that this board of trustees urges the president of the university to continue his consultation with the Department of Defense, leading to appropriate actions which will improve and vitalize this important program."

The trustee action follows a Feb. 24 student referendum, where a 3-2 majority said "ROTC has a legitimate place on campus and deserves support and credit from the University for all those parts of the program that are of genuine academic interest." The vote was 2,106 to 1,397 among the University's 11,400 students.

On Feb. 23, faculty representatives on the Senate of the Academic Council voted 25-8 to end academic credit for military training and education at Stanford, starting in 1970.

More than 50 professors have requested that the entire Council reconsider this action--the first such review in the seven-month history of the Senate. The Council includes more than 900 members of professorial rank.

Faculty groups at Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Pennsylvania, and Pomona have voted to deny ROTC academic credit.

The Senate action at Stanford followed a 6-3 majority recommendation from a student-faculty committee which spent five months studying relations between the University and ROTC departments.

Neither the majority nor the minority advocated the removal of ROTC from campus. The majority report suggested that ROTC could continue to offer a scholarship or contract program, comprising normal academic education outside ROTC, supplemented by voluntary activities on campus and off-campus training. Military personnel on campus to administer such an armed forces officer program also could offer voluntary undergraduate special courses on the same basis as other members of the campus community, following present policy guidelines.

The minority report recommended consolidation of the three services into a single department, with a joint student-faculty committee in charge of credit courses in the military science curriculum. This group would include four professors from the University at large, one from each service, and four students.

Assuming that studies in military history and national security affairs will be available in other academic departments in the future, degree credit for courses offered by the reorganized department of military studies would not exceed 18 of the 160 units required for graduation, the minority noted.

If adopted by the Stanford faculty, any decision to deny academic credit for military training and education would not become fully effective until 1973, when students now enrolled in the program graduate.

The Army ROTC program was established at Stanford in 1919, with Air Force and Navy programs starting in 1946. All three are voluntary.

In 1958-59, the three departments had a combined enrollment of 732 students and commissioned 186 officers. By 1963-64, there were 586 enrolled and 86 commissioned, while last year there were 383 enrolled and 98 commissioned. Among those enrolled, 125 had full tuition ROTC scholarships, worth a combined total of about \$250,000. ###

3/11/69