

ROTC at Stanford gets trustees' backing

Stanford University trustees gave strong backing Tuesday to the embattled Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) programs on campus.

They directed President Kenneth S. Pitzer to continue negotiations with Defense Department officials "leading to appropriate actions which will improve and vitalize this important program."

The trustees did not mention the question of academic credit for ROTC in a statement issued after an eight-hour meeting. Their stand, however, could only place them on the side of students who voted for credit and against professors who voted to do away with it.

The Stanford Academic Council will consider the credit issue at its next regular meeting, April 4.

The board urged that any action concerning ROTC give "full weight" to the following considerations:

—This nation has a strong and valued tradition of civilian leadership in military leadership.

—Deterioration of that tradition would move us very quickly towards the emergence of a military caste.

ROTC is vital to the continued supply of civilian lead-

ership for the military service, and it is of crucial importance that first-ranking institutions, such as Stanford, lend their strength to that task.

Students voted Feb. 24 for a referendum that 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.

Earlier faculty representatives on the Senate of the Academic Council had voted 23 to 8 to end academic credit for military training starting in 1970.

At the request of more than 50 professors, the issue will be reconsidered by the full 900-member Academic Council.

Faculties at a number of Eastern universities have in the past few months voted to end credit for ROTC.

The actions prompted Defense Secretary Melvin Laird to warn that the flow of civilian leadership into the military is in jeopardy. ROTC instructors have said they doubt that their programs will be able to survive on campus without credit.