

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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STANFORD--An eight man faculty-student committee Wednesday (JUNE 3) Unanimously urged Stanford President Kenneth S. Pitzer to initiate discussions with the Defense Department for new officer training programs for students off campus, following the phase-out of present ROTC programs at the University.

Following the May 7 Faculty Senate vote terminating academic credit for ROTC courses, the Senate requested the committee to recommend whether ROTC should be terminated or retained and, if it were retained, how the future program should be conducted. The Senate will discuss the report Thursday.

Headed by Prof. Keith Mann, the committee called for "cohesive and congruent action" by several university presidents to support a new plan combining professional training off campus with normal academic courses taught by regular, nonmilitary faculty.

It expressed hope such a program might be organized by the fall of 1972, and urged that the idea be extended to a "national student services program" covering nonmilitary programs for both men and women.

"There appears good reason to try to move what has been at Stanford 'the ROTC issue' above the level of symbolism--a measure of whether somebody agrees or disagrees with the Southeast Asia policy," the committee report said.

"There is a case to be made for providing some kind of military officer training opportunity to those who desire it, even though a majority of students and faculty members would themselves make a different choice. But there is no better inherent case for providing this kind of training on a subsidized basis than there is for providing training on a similar basis for other high purposes...."

"There are manifest signs among today's students of a desire to take a larger part in solving the nation's problems than they feel they have had an opportunity to do... The exercise of some ingenuity about developing a broader service model than a military service training program might produce some fruitful ideas, in keeping with campus ideas and ideals about human needs."

Results of a poll sponsored by the advisory committee, drawing responses from more than 600 faculty and 6,000 students, showed "no clear mandate on ROTC's role is evident in Stanford community opinion," the report noted.

Among students, there was an almost even, three-way split between those supporting official status for ROTC, with or without academic credit (36 percent), those preferring it only as a voluntary student organization (32 percent), and those wanting no ROTC (32 percent).

Faculty opinions were similarly divided, with somewhat stronger preference for official status (42 percent) and somewhat less for not permitting ROTC on campus in any form (24 percent). (For details, see table below.)

Findings of the poll confirm that the need for some kind of transitional arrangements is recognized by the dominant majority of the Stanford community, the committee indicated.

The total number/currently enrolled ROTC students projected for next fall is 135, of whom 62 will complete their ROTC courses during academic year 1970-71.

"It seems clear that ROTC, as traditionally conceived, is approaching an end at Stanford except as limited by contract and except as temporary continuation on a reduced scale is essential to the equitable treatment of the present enrollees," the committee said.

The Air Force will leave by June 30, 1971, as previously announced. Last week, on receipt of the Navy's notice of intention to withdraw from Stanford, subject to the ability of its midshipmen to complete their courses, President Pitzer notified the committee of the Navy's action.

"While the Army has not taken such action, the earlier negotiated proposal can no longer be implemented," the committee said.

The proposed modification in status of Army ROTC for a one-year trial period, recommended by President Pitzer and approved by the Faculty Senate Jan. 22, was never formally implemented, the committee noted. Under the May 7 Senate resolution, terminating academic credit for ROTC courses Aug. 31, it cannot now be implemented.

(more)

The result of these developments, reflected in the committee's report and recommendations, is to leave the contracts unchanged by University action, except as they were modified by the Faculty Senate resolutions of 1969. These called for a phasing out of ROTC programs starting this fall.

The report noted that "There has been intense political pressure on all sides of the issue, and tactics have unfortunately escalated to violent proportions. It is the view of this committee and widely held view among both students and faculty that resorting to lawlessness to support the 'Off-ROTC' position is wrong, that it should in no way influence the disposition of this issue, and decreases support for that position.

"The committee is aware that in the minds of many, those most closely identified with the 'Off-ROTC' position are thought to be responsible for much of the disruption and wanton destruction on this campus this spring. The withdrawal of ROTC, no matter how valid the reasons, would be seen by many as responding to violence. This belief cannot be ignored.

"Nevertheless, it is critical to note that the basic policy of the University was established more than a year ago. On the strength of the record, the committee is clear that any seeming presumption of response to violence is incorrect."

Appropriate action, it continued, must be grounded in "the essential concern of an open society -- how to determine and effectuate the dominant view while according to the majority that respect without which the 'tyranny of the majority' becomes as dangerous as any other tyranny."

On a short term basis, it recommended that (1) Effective Aug. 31, no new enrollments be accepted or become initially effective in any Stanford ROTC program as presently constituted. (2) Freshmen who have been admitted to Stanford this fall with ROTC scholarships "within the limits of Stanford's financial aid policies, be awarded scholarships by the University." At the same time, the Army and Navy should be encouraged "to offer and arrange alternative ROTC placement at comparable universities for those who wish it." (3) ROTC units should be allowed to remain at Stanford pursuant to the 1969 resolutions "only so long as it is absolutely necessary to permit students currently enrolled to complete their programs."

It also urged ROTC units to expedite the phase-out process to enable students currently enrolled to complete their ROTC programs by June, 1972.

It also suggested that Pitzer seek assurances from the services that "in the light of the changes and uncertainties caused by the phase-out process, the punitive clauses (in individual student contracts with the services) will not be invoked against any student who wishes to disenroll at any time before completing his ROTC course. In addition, the committee suggested that the Provost of the University designate an academic officer to advise and assist in settling cases of individual hardship."

On a long-term basis, the committee said, "the universities and the Department of Defense ought to be able to devise a form of officer training that a university student might receive concurrently with his university education."

This should "impose upon the student no compromises upon the pursuit of his own intellectual and academic ambitions, and...not produce the incompatibilities between university education and military training inherent in the present ROTC concept."

It said such a plan "would have the best chance of attracting suitable candidates in substantial numbers" if its characteristics included draft deferments for those enrolled and scholarships convertible to long term loans repayable to the government if the student chose to drop the program before being commissioned. This would eliminate the so-called "punitive clauses" in present ROTC contracts, which subject students to the risk of immediate induction if they terminate their ROTC contracts.

In areas like the San Francisco Peninsula, where several major universities are close neighbors, the committee continued, off campus military training could permit the military services to achieve substantial economies of scale with limited amounts of travel inconvenience to students. In addition, some of this training could be shifted to summer camps and summer cruises.

A revamped program "might include a set of designated courses taught by regular Stanford faculty as normal departmental offerings (for those enrolled at Stanford)...worked out by local military representatives in conjunction with a committee of the (Faculty) Senate."

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"A formal contract of the present type between the University and the services should prove unnecessary" with such a plan, the committee suggested. "In any event, every care must be exercised to see to it that the University not delegate to an outside agency any aspect of control over its decision-making processes."

The services might decide to assign officers to campus for recruitment or counseling purposes, in which case they could be provided facilities through the Placement Office or Dean of Students. There would be no need for a formal or informal campus organization for the program, but nothing would prevent students from voluntarily establishing an organization for inviting lecturers and delving into problems of mutual interest.

In a questionnaire mailed to all Stanford students and all full-time faculty, the committee found the following:

ROTC ROLE ON CAMPUS...	STUDENTS	FACULTY
ROTC remain as organized activity, with academic credit for ROTC-taught courses	19%)	19%)
ROTC should not receive credit, but should be allowed on campus as an organized, official activity of the University	36%) 17%)	42%) 23%)
ROTC should not be allowed on campus, except as a voluntary student organization	32%	34%
ROTC should not be allowed on campus at all, even as a voluntary student organization	16%)	17%)
(write-in) No organized military training at Stanford.	32%) 16%)	24%) 7%)

Less than one per cent of the 6200 students and 642 faculty responding had no opinion on this question. When asked about cadets currently enrolled, these were the replies:

CURRENT ROTC STUDENTS SHOULD BE...	STUDENTS	FACULTY
Allowed to continue ROTC with credit until graduation in accord with their original expectations	36%	44%
Allowed to substitute other departmental courses in place of ROTC courses and allowed to continue working as ROTC students for commissions	27	29
Allowed to graduate with a reduced number of academic credits in order to compensate for the fact that ROTC courses will have no credit in the future	13	11
Disenrolled from ROTC and not allowed to continue work toward commissions through auspices of Stanford	21	12
No opinion	3	4

Besides Prof. Mann, members of the President's Advisory Committee on ROTC who endorsed the report were: Assistant Prof. J. Victor Baldrige, education; William N. Blanchard, graduate student in aeronautics and astronautics; Arnold E. Brown, graduate student in business; Prof. A. Dale Kaiser, biochemistry; Prof. Philip H. Rhinelander, philosophy and humanities; Carol Ann Roesch, junior in psychology; Prof. Eugene J. Webb, business.

Thomas E. Headrick served as consultant to the committee. Army Col. Stanley Ramey, professor of military science, served as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee from October, 1969 to the present.

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