

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STANFORD —

The Faculty Senate has indefinitely postponed a request that it consider initiation of new ROTC programs at Stanford.

The vote was 29-12 at the regular Senate meeting Thursday, Jan. 24.

The postponement left standing a 1970 Senate report recommending that "universities and the Defense Department ought to be able to devise a form of officer training that a university student might receive concurrently with his university education," with drill and other professional training off campus. ROTC was phased out at Stanford last June.

Robert J. Barker, graduate student who headed a petition drive among students and faculty to reinstate ROTC, said the Senate action "wasn't a surprise."

"What we'll do now is regroup and maybe shoot for a spring offensive," he added. "We're going to set up a tighter organization and get a sounder financial base."

While definitely disappointed, he said "we're not totally defeated at this point." Barker said he would have preferred to see the Senate debate the issue directly, rather than going around it.

Senate Chairman Dirk Walecka said the vote "doesn't mean the Senate is closed to ROTC forever," especially since a "sizeable part of the faculty would like to see ROTC come back."

A concrete proposal based on the 1970 guidelines "clearly would be a new question" for the Senate to consider, he indicated.

These guidelines suggested that an attractive ROTC program would include 1) provision for draft deferments, 2) forgivable loans instead of ROTC scholarships, 3) off-campus professional training, and 4) normal academic courses taught by regular Stanford faculty.

Prof. William Clebsch, humanities special programs, said he felt this was "a very intelligible, defensible policy."

Prof. Gordon Craig, history, said he would be "much more comfortable" if the Senate asked President Richard W. Lyman to have an advisory committee review the extent to which current Defense Department regulations met the 1970 faculty recommendations.

Robert Rosenzweig pointed out that the so-called "punitive clauses" for ROTC scholarships were written into law and quite unlikely to change in the near future.

Prof. William Dickinson, geology, said the Senate should debate the provisions on the 1970 report explicitly to indicate what faculty representatives felt on the basic issues.

Petitions signed by 150 students and more than 50 professors asked the Senate to consider initiating new ROTC programs. While possible, an appeal of the Senate's action to the full 1,000-member Academic Council appeared unlikely.