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ROTC reinstatement petitioned

Some Stanford University professors are attempting to have ROTC reinstated on the campus.

Fifty-two of them have signed petitions asking the Faculty Senate and the University administration to "consider initiation of new ROTC programs" at Stanford.

The Faculty Senate will hold a "very preliminary discussion" of the issue Thursday.

Last spring 150 students signed petitions asking the University to reopen negotiations with the Defense Department to bring back a modified ROTC program.

More than 50 years of ROTC programs at Stanford ended last June when 14 undergraduates were commissioned.

When the ROTC programs ended, Provost William F. Miller said it was "quite encouraging to note that the military services are actively exploring new forms of ROTC programs with increased flexibility in terms of the curriculum to be offered.

"No doubt a number of institutions, including Stanford, will be examining these opportunities in terms of student interests, academic standards, and the historic role of citizen soldiers in democratic societies."

One of those circulating petitions among both faculty and students has been Robert J. Barker, a graduate student in applied physics.

Barker said he believes an increasing number of faculty members supports restoration of ROTC on the campus.

ROTC is "probably the best civilian oriented input to the armed services that exists," said Barker, an Air Force

ROTC graduate at Stevens Institute of Technology.

ROTC is extremely valuable with all-volunteer armed services, he added.

"It would be great if we could set a pattern for the rest of the country" in setting up a new ROTC program, he said, but he added the administration has made it "perfectly clear that the faculty must set the guidelines for any

compromise solution."

In May, 1970, the Faculty Senate voted 36 to 8 to bar any future academic credit for ROTC.

A month later the senate adopted a report which said "the 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."