Faculty votes to end academic credit for ROTC program

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The faculty has voted 403–356 to end academic credit for military training and education, starting with the 1970 freshman class.

Their action is in accord with a 25–8 vote of the Senate of the Academic Council Feb. 13. Similar votes have been taken in recent months by faculty groups at Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Pennsylvania, and Pomona, among others.

The vote will not affect the 360 students now enrolled in ROTC programs. In accord with the faculty action, an earlier student vote and a March 11 trustee resolution, President Pitzer indicated he will continue consultation with the Department of Defense, looking toward the establishment of an appropriate non-credit program at Stanford.

Nearly 1,000 professors received individual mail ballots for the vote, in the first such test of a major Senate action.

On Feb. 24, a 3–2 majority of students voting in a campus referendum 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 Senate resolution, sustained by the full faculty, called for a committee composed of students, faculty, administrators, and representatives of the ROTC departments to work out details of the transition, which will not become fully effective until 1973.

Prof. Lyman P. Van Slyke, history, summarized the majority findings of a nine-man committee which studied ROTC for five months, saying: "We are not passing judgment on the armed forces, nor it is our purpose to obstruct the recruitment of officers. . . .

"Whatever our feelings as individuals, we are not passing judgment on the Vietnam War.

"We do not seek to prevent any Stanford student from serving as an officer in the armed forces. Our sole concern is for the process through which this is accomplished at Stanford.

"The majority of the committee sees as acceptable the continuation of ROTC scholarships, of voluntary on-campus activities, and of off-campus and summer training."

The Senate vote called for the three ROTC departments to be replaced by a single armed forces officer program "for the purposes of administration counseling, and recruiting for reserve officer training and education."

It also called for individual contracts between Stanford students and the armed forces to be revised to reflect actual practice, which permits students to drop ROTC scholarships without penalty during their first two years.

During the transition period, senior officers in each service would carry the academic title of "lecturer with rank of professor." After the start of the 1973–74 academic year, armed forces representatives would carry no academic rank.