

Trustees urge full negotiations on ROTC

The Board of Trustees has called ROTC "vital to the continued supply of civilian leadership for the military service" and has urged President Kenneth S. Pitzer to continue negotiations with Defense Department officials "leading to appropriate actions which will improve and vitalize this important program."

The Board's March 11 action made no mention of academic credit for ROTC courses, a subject which was to be considered by the Academic Council at its regular meeting April 4.

The Board urged that "any action taken with respect to ROTC give full weight to the following:

- A. That this nation has a strong and valued tradition of civilian participation in military leadership;
- B. That deterioration of that tradition would move us very quickly toward the emergence of a military caste;
- C. That ROTC is vital to the continued supply of civilian leadership for the military services, and it is of crucial importance that first-ranking

institutions, such as Stanford, lend their strength to that task; and

- D. Further that this board of trustees urges the president of the university to continue his consultation with the Department of Defense, leading to appropriate actions which will improve and vitalize this important program."

The trustee action followed a Feb. 24 student referendum, where a 3-2 majority said "ROTC has a legitimate place on campus and deserves support and credit from the University for all those parts of the pro-

gram that are of genuine academic interest." The vote was 2,106 to 1,397 among the 11,400 students.

On Feb. 23, faculty representatives on the Senate of the Academic Council voted 25-8 to end academic credit for military training and education at Stanford, starting in 1970.

The Senate action followed a 6-3 majority recommendation from a student-faculty committee which spent five months studying relations between the University and ROTC departments.

Neither the majority nor the minority advocated the removal of ROTC from campus.

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