

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - The Stanford Academic Council today approved a proposal permitting Army ROTC courses to qualify for limited academic credit on a one-year trial basis.

The mail ballot vote was 390 to 373.

University President Kenneth S. Pitzer had strongly endorsed the proposal, which was approved Jan. 22 by the Faculty Senate, 23-13.

In accord with the Senate action, the Committee on Undergraduate Studies "will consider each Army course proposal for academic credit on its academic merits, with no presumption that any such proposal will be accepted."

In January, Pitzer told the Senate that the Army is prepared to let the issue of credit stand or fall on the committee's decision on each course proposal.

The new plan will take effect this fall. It eliminates Academic Council membership for ROTC instructors and reduces the number of ROTC course units from the present total of 27 to a possible maximum of six or nine. Stanford requires 180 units for graduation.

Administratively, Army ROTC will be shifted from a department in the School of Humanities and Sciences to a Center for Military Studies, reporting the University Provost.

The Army proposal has been regarded as a possible prototype for similar changes by the Navy and Air Force, which also have ROTC units at Stanford. There was no immediate indication whether they would, in fact, submit similar proposals.

Stanford currently has about 250 students in ROTC programs, down about 100 from last year. The Army alone has 100 cadets, compared to 160 in 1968-69.

Pitzer said he was pleased that the Senate position had been sustained. He emphasized that the program would be thoroughly reviewed after its initial year. "I am still very much concerned about the punitive clauses in individual student contracts and intend to do everything possible to call attention to this problem and urge corrective action," he added.

Prof. William Clebsch, Senate chairman, said the results of the referendum "are as narrow as the issue on which the vote was taken. I have thought all along there was little difference between the Senate's 1969 action opposing credit and the 1970 action specifying the single channel through which credit might or might not be given to ROTC courses. The vote shows the faculty has no strong preferences between these two actions, but the 1970 action stands. It is clear that this faculty does not want to kick ROTC off campus. It is also clear the faculty does not want ROTC as a regular academic program. Nothing else is very clear." Clebsch voted with the minority.

Prof. Harold Kahn, who led opposition to the Senate action, said the vote was "very unfortunate, though expected." While he did not anticipate the results would be quite so close, he said it "suggests the faculty is celebrating its own castration" in retaining control over the University's academic program. "The issue should not have been one of credit or non-credit, but whether ROTC should be retained," he added.

Col. Stanley Ramey, head of Army ROTC, said he expected it would be about three weeks before the Army ROTC course proposals were in final form for submission to the Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

The majority vote margin narrowly exceeded the number of ROTC instructors who are members of the Academic Council at present. They total 11.

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