

Will Faculty Senate Eliminate ROTC?

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The faculty Senate could easily vote to eliminate ROTC from the Stanford campus this quarter.

Yesterday, the Berkeley faculty Senate overwhelmingly recommended that ROTC become an "off-campus extra-curricular activity" and recommended that its committee on courses abolish credit for ROTC classes.

A week and a half ago the Stanford faculty Senate voted to deny credit to ROTC classes. And before the quarter is over, it will also consider recommending that it should be a "voluntary student organization."

According to Provost Richard Lyman, making ROTC such a voluntary organization would be tantamount to removing ROTC from campus. On February 12, 1969, the original student-faculty committee report on ROTC recommended such a status for ROTC but the proposal was referred to the Advisory Committee on ROTC—which has taken no action on the proposal.

Last year's majority report emphasized that on-campus activities must be voluntary. Needless to say, this eliminates much of the ROTC program as it is now designed.

Not Titled ROTC

The report said, "It is likely that the program which we recommend would not and should not be denoted as 'ROTC.' It envisioned recruiting efforts and voluntary on-campus activities with required off-campus training. It suggested that the summer ROTC training be expanded to encompass the training that now takes place on campus.

At that time, the Senate was informed that the Armed Forces would not accept the restrictions of having ROTC a voluntary extra-curricular activity.

Not wanting to "Off-ROTC," the Senate took no action on the recommendation. According to several reports, in the Senate debate few, if any, Senators even suggested that ROTC should not be on campus.

A year later, Berkeley faculty has taken an

extraordinary action—especially for a public institution. And the Stanford faculty may take similar action. Because the Regents or President of the University of California can overrule the faculty, the force of the Berkeley faculty vote was unclear.

Senate Controls Credit

Here, the faculty Senate can only recommend that ROTC become a voluntary student activity—the President and Board of Trustees have the final power. It does, however, control the granting of credit for ROTC courses.

Now, the group might favor making ROTC extra-curricular activity. At their May 7 meeting, it defeated a motion to consider such action in a narrow 24 to 21 vote.

Indications are that most of the 21 who wanted to consider the motion at that time favor making ROTC a voluntary activity. At least several of

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those who voted against considering the motion merely wanted to put off the decision until they get new information on ROTC. A motion that would have put the Senate on record as supporting ROTC was handily defeated in a voice vote at that meeting.

Referendum

Many Senators are awaiting the results of a referendum on ROTC being conducted by the Advisory Committee. Others want to find out what is happening at other schools or what can be done about the punitive clause.

Many Senators think that the situation has greatly changed in a year and even in recent weeks. They feel that another student referendum might show the students now want ROTC off campus.

It is harsh to say that the Senate would vote to Off ROTC. They would be eliminating ROTC through a maneuver that would make it look like ROTC could not adapt to the University. Many Senators sincerely believe that ROTC should have no favored status—that it should be merely a

voluntary extra-curricular activity. While they would not say that the military should be singled out for attack by the University, they will certainly say that it should not be favored in any way.

The ASSU Council of Presidents has said, "If the Defense Department is unwilling to accept this, then we don't think it is appropriate for the University to make special arrangements for ROTC."

Changes

The Defense Department does not agree with this reasoning—the Stanford faculty evidently did not last year; however the Berkeley faculty does agree.

What has changed in a year? The Berkeley faculty said it took its action for valid academic reasons. But the Los Angeles Times reported last week that the UCLA faculty voted "to eliminate academic credit for ROTC until U.S. involvement ends in Southeast Asia." One has to wonder if the Berkeley faculty wasn't thinking yesterday along similar lines.

The large part of Stanford faculty Senate has changed its mind in a year. Why? The Off-ROTC movement has had something to do with it. Senators will say that they will not bow to violence, but the movement has kept the issue in the news and in the minds of Senators.

History Professor David Potter has called ROTC the "whipping boy for the Vietnam War." At a minimum, the Vietnam War and the American invasion of Cambodia has made many faculty members unwilling to support the military.

Several senators have said that after the invasion of Cambodia has made them feel that they must now strike out at the closest symbol of the military—ROTC.

A few years ago ROTC was safe. Most faculty members felt the University should support the military in its activities. Now, while some openly attack the military and say that ROTC should be "offed" because it is part of that military, many others are merely now unwilling to favor the military.