

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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STANFORD -- The Stanford Faculty Senate Thursday night (JUNE 4) endorsed recommendations that President Kenneth S. Pitzer initiate discussions with the Defense Department for a new officer training program off campus, following the phase-out of present ROTC programs at the University.

The roll call vote was 26 to 8, with three abstentions.

The recommendations were made unanimously by an eight-man faculty-student committee headed by Prof. Keith Mann, law. They called for "cohesive and congruent action" by several university presidents to support a new plan combining professional training off campus with normal academic courses taught by regular, non-military faculty.

The committee expressed hope such a program might be organized by the fall of 1972. It urged that the idea be extended to a "national student services program" covering non-military programs for both men and women.

"It seems clear that ROTC, as traditionally conceived, is approaching an end at Stanford," the committee noted. Enrollment has fallen from 346 in the fall of 1968 to 250 in the fall of 1969. Of this group, 135 are expected to enroll next fall, with about half completing their ROTC courses during 1970-71.

The Air Force has announced it will leave by June 30, 1971. The Navy has notified the University of its intention to withdraw, subject to the ability of its midshipmen to complete their courses.

A proposed modification involving limited academic credit for Army ROTC for a one-year trial period, recommended by President Pitzer and approved by the Faculty Senate in January, has not been formally implemented. Under the terms of a May 7 Faculty Senate resolution, academic credit for ROTC has been barred, effective Aug. 31.

A petition signed by 58 professors has called for a special meeting of the 1,000-man Academic Council, followed by a mail ballot to approve or reject the Senate decision on academic credit for ROTC this summer.

On a short-term basis, the committee recommended that no new enrollments in ROTC "as presently constituted" be accepted after Aug. 31. About 30 prospective freshmen who have been admitted to Stanford this fall with ROTC scholarships should be awarded University scholarships "within the limits of Stanford's financial aid policies," it added.

The committee also urged that ROTC units be encouraged to expedite the phase-out process to enable students currently enrolled to complete their programs by June, 1972.

On a long-term basis, the committee said, "the universities and the Department of Defense ought to be able to devise a form of officer training that a university student might receive concurrently with his university education."

It said such a plan "would have the best chance of attracting suitable candidates in substantial numbers" if its characteristics included draft deferments for those enrolled and scholarships convertible to long-term loans repayable to the government if the student chose to drop the program before being commissioned. This would eliminate the so-called "punitive clauses" in present ROTC contracts, which subject students to the risk of immediate induction if they terminate their ROTC contracts.

(more)

In areas like the San Francisco Peninsula, where several major universities are close neighbors, the committee continued, off-campus military training could permit the military services to achieve substantial economies of scale with limited amounts of travel inconvenience to students. In addition, some of this training could be shifted to summer camps and summer cruises.

A revamped program "might include a set of designated courses taught by regular Stanford faculty as normal departmental offerings (for those enrolled at Stanford)... worked out by local military representatives in conjunction with a committee of the (Faculty) Senate."

"There appears good reason to try to move what has been at Stanford 'the ROTC issue' above the level of symbolism--a measure of whether somebody agrees or disagrees with the Southeast Asia policy," the committee report said.

"There is a case to be made for providing some kind of military officer training opportunity to those who desire it, even though a majority of students and faculty members would themselves make a different choice. But there is no better inherent case for providing this kind of training on a subsidized basis than there is for providing training on a similar basis for other high purposes....

"There are manifest signs among today's students of a desire to take a larger part in solving the nation's problems than they feel they have had an opportunity to do... The exercise of some ingenuity about developing a broader service model than a military service training program might produce some fruitful ideas, in keeping with campus ideas and ideals about human needs."

Results of a poll sponsored by the advisory committee, drawing responses from more than 640 faculty and 6,200 students, showed "no clear mandate on ROTC's role is evident in Stanford community opinion," the report noted.

Among students, there was an almost even, three-way split between those supporting official status for ROTC, with or without academic credit (36 percent), those preferring it only as a voluntary student organization (32 percent), and those wanting no ROTC (32 percent).

Faculty opinions were similarly divided, with somewhat stronger preference for official status (42 percent) and somewhat less for not permitting ROTC on campus in any form (24 percent).

Other findings of the poll confirm that the need for some kind of transitional arrangements is recognized by the dominant majority of the Stanford community, the committee indicated.

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