

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA
ZIP 94305.
(A/C 415) 321-2300, Ext. 2558

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers

*Southern California editors may
contact Stanford Regional Office,
621 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles
Zip 90017. (213) 627-0653*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - The Stanford Faculty Senate Thursday night (JAN. 22) approved a plan which would permit Army ROTC courses to qualify for limited academic credit on a one-year trial basis.

In its 23-13 vote, the Senate also urged University President Kenneth S. Pitzer "to do everything possible to press for the elimination of the punitive provisions in individual ROTC contracts" with students.

The action followed three and a half hours debate, including strong support for the proposals from both Pitzer and University Provost Richard W. Lyman. About 100 students seeking an end to ROTC on campus gathered outside the Graduate School of Business building before the Senate met, but did not obstruct entry to the meeting. About 25 conservative students opposed to disruptions also were present.

The Senate placed responsibility for evaluating Army ROTC course proposals in the faculty Committee on Undergraduate Studies, which now decides whether academic credit shall be given special non-departmental courses.

The Senate emphasized that "CUS will consider each Army course proposal for academic credit on its academic merits, with no presumption that any such proposal will be accepted."

Pitzer told the Senate that the Army "is prepared to accept the committee's judgment and let the issue of credit stand or fall on the committee's decision on each course proposal."

"To flatly refuse consideration of credit would be seen by many as undue discrimination against military science when we have a reasonably flexible system for credit," Pitzer stated.

As submitted by the Army, the change will eliminate departmental status for ROTC and faculty status for its instructors. It also will reduce the maximum possible course credits for ROTC instruction to about one-third their present level.

Several faculty members anticipate that the Senate's decision will be reviewed by the full Academic Council.

Last April, the faculty voted 403-356 that "after a transitional period, there should be no academic credit received for participation in programs of military training and education," sustaining an earlier 28-8 Senate vote.

Pitzer called the Army concessions over the past year "substantial" and pointed out that "there are large segments of the Stanford constituency that desire ROTC with some aspects of credit retained."

He emphasized that "the faculty retains complete control of academic credit.... There is no presumption of credit. The Army is prepared to accept the verdict." Proposals from the Navy or Air Force should be considered separately "if they differ significantly from this pattern," he added.

Prof. Alan S. Manne, economics, headed the advisory committee on ROTC, but dissented from its 6-2 recommendations on credit.

"This body is being asked to reverse last year's faculty decisions and to adopt the Department of Defense position that these (ROTC) programs are not viable without academic credit," he told the Senate.

"In the referendum reviewing the Senate's actions, a majority of the faculty favored retention of the ROTC units on campus as an extracurricular activity but without academic credit. In my view this faculty decision was a sound one and long overdue--overdue by decades." (more) 1/23/70

He noted there is no statutory requirement that ROTC courses receive academic credit.

"To ask CUS to administer courses of this type is to ask for continual headaches, and to politicize the tasks of that committee," he added.

Prof. Sanford Dornbusch, sociology, said the CUS would be "scared stiff to be given this responsibility." He spoke against the proposal.

Prof. Steven Kline, engineering, said 18 of 20 faculty colleagues he canvassed supported the proposal, including several who voted with the Council majority last spring. He pointed out that the Engineering School has for many years had a limit of five units credit for ROTC without diminishing student interest in this program.

Provost Lyman told the Senate that "the legitimate concerns (expressed by the faculty last spring) have largely been met.

"The new proposal gives us a chance to try something too many universities have found it easier, in today's political climate, to turn their backs on--namely, retain the option of obtaining a service commission while going through college.

"No one must take ROTC," he added. "The faculty is in about as full control of course credit as it ever is. And significant advantages accrue to many students in the form of scholarship support not forthcoming from other sources."

Dan Caldwell, a senior history major who served with the Manne committee, pointed out that 125 students received about \$250,000 in ROTC scholarships at Stanford last year. A Naval ROTC cadet, he said his class had freely discussed My Lai and other controversial military incidents.

Pat Shea, of the Associated Students Council of Presidents, said he felt the faculty had "wisely decided" last spring that all academic programs had to originate within the University. He urged the Senate to act promptly on the issue, and heavily criticized the ROTC student contract provisions.

On this, Pitzer told the Senate: "It is our intention to keep pushing the services and to exert every possible influence on Congress and the Department of Defense. In the meantime, the heads of military programs (on campus) are under explicit instructions to be sure they use every possible discretion at their command to mitigate the so-called punitive clauses and take every possible step to be certain that every enrolled student understands his status under the contracts."

Stanford now has about 250 students in three ROTC departments, down about 100 from a year ago.

Under ROTC contract provisions, those signing four-year contracts may terminate their scholarships during the first two years without penalty, while those contracting for two years may do so in the initial 12 months. Wilful evasion of the contract after that time exposes a student to the possibility of compulsory service in the enlisted ranks for periods up to two or four years.

The resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate read in full as follows: "Resolved that the Senate approves acceptance of the Army proposal referred to in the Jan. 16, 1970, memorandum of President Pitzer, subject to the understanding that acceptance shall be on a one-year trial basis with appropriate review at the end of that time; and that 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; and further resolved that the Senate urge President Pitzer to do everything possible to press for the elimination of the punitive provisions in individual ROTC contracts."

Under the Army proposal, which would become effective this fall, ROTC courses would be organized in a Center for Military Studies, with a director and other staff members reporting to the Provost's Office. At present, there are about six Academic Council members in the department, which is part of the School of Humanities and Sciences. The Senate proceedings were broadcast to nearby Bishop auditorium, where many students listened to the discussions. ###