

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD—

The Stanford Board of Trustees has reaffirmed the dismissal of former Prof. H. Bruce Franklin, now a tenured faculty member at Rutgers.

The trustees' decision was taken without dissent at a special meeting July 14. It was made public following notification of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, which seeks Franklin's reinstatement at Stanford.

Franklin was dismissed from Stanford in 1972 after extensive hearings before the Advisory Board, an elected group of tenured faculty, found him guilty on three charges of inciting in a series of incidents Feb. 10, 1971.

In January, 1978, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge John Flaherty, after reviewing the Advisory Board's record, found Franklin guilty on two charges, but not the third. The judge asked the University to determine whether the penalty of dismissal still was appropriate.

On May 30, 1980, after receiving written briefs and responses from both the University and the ACLU, the Advisory Board voted 6-0 that dismissal remains the appropriate penalty.

"We do not believe that the question of penalty is much affected by whether Prof. Franklin incited and precipitated dangerous and disruptive activities on three occasions on the same day, or only on two, or even one," the Advisory Board said.

"His purpose on each occasion, according to the findings of the 1972 (Advisory) Board, was to disrupt the normal functioning of Stanford University because of its supposed responsibility for imperialism and the Vietnam War, and to do whatever he could to encourage disruptive and destructive conduct while safeguarding his own position as a tenured professor.

"In calmer circumstances, he might have had little chance of success, but in the superexcited atmosphere of February 1971, he was able to have a substantial destructive influence.

"We consider that the actions of Prof. Franklin at the noon rally at White Plaza, in particular, constituted an inexcusable abandonment of his duties as a faculty member and merit dismissal even in the absence of other related misconduct."

On June 6, University President Richard W. Lyman accepted the Advisory Board's decision and asked the trustees to concur in his decision.

The trustees' action followed review of the documents submitted to the Advisory Board by the University and by the ACLU.

The trustees determined that the proceedings for dismissal of a tenured professor, as provided for in the University's Statement of Policy on Appointment and Tenure "have been fully and properly conducted."

The decisions of the Advisory Board, Lyman, and the Board of Trustees will be submitted to Judge Flaherty.

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EDITORS: The phone number for John Schwartz, University counsel, is (415) 497-3761. ACLU attorneys Margaret Crosby and Alan Schlosser's office phone is (415) 777-4545.