

RESOLUTION ON COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SENATE

WHEREAS, Columbia University's many existing relationships with the Armed Forces of the United States, such as participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program for veterans, the Eisenhower Leadership Development Program at Teachers College, and the Armed Forces scholarship and residency programs with the Faculty of Health Sciences, enrich the Columbia community; and

WHEREAS, Columbia students have successfully participated in off-campus Reserve Officers Training Corps programs for decades and have recently taken part in various ceremonial functions on campus, including commissioning ceremonies and a weekly color guard; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed a bill repealing 10 U.S.C. § 654 (commonly termed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law) on December 18, 2010, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama, CC '83 on December 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, military service, supporting an abiding idea of the nation beyond its policies at any given moment, belongs among those forms of public service honored by Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, the 1976 Tien Special Committee specifically empowers the University Senate to discuss and decide on any future relationships with the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Task Force on Military Engagement conducted a broad and representative process, soliciting opinions from the Columbia community; the results of which included a survey of opinion of the student bodies of five schools* with a 60% (for), 33% (against), and 7% (neutral) result specifically on the question of on-campus Reserve Officers Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, the principles of Columbia University's non-discrimination policy, which are deeply important to Columbia's identity, express shared values of fostering an open and tolerant community, as shall not abridge the University's educational mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Columbia University welcomes the opportunity to explore mutually beneficial relationships with the Armed Forces of the United States, including participation in the programs of the Reserve Officers Training Corps; and

PROPOSERS

Executive Committee
Student Affairs Committee
Faculty Affairs Committee
Education Committee

* Barnard College, Columbia College, the undergraduate program at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and the School of International and Public Affairs.