

cc: Dr. Kusch, Dr. Halford, Captain Rehnberg, Dean Hovde
Dean Hennessy

May 20, 1969

Dear Admiral Duncan:

I want to express to you our appreciation for the opportunity you and your colleagues afforded us for recent discussions on the NROTC program at Columbia University. I want to thank you in particular for the time that you gave to Dr. Ralph Halford, Vice President, in outlining the position of the Navy Department and to his presentation of policy considerations here.

On the day prior to May 13th, when the University Council and the board of Trustees met on this matter, Dr. Halford and I had a joint conversation with Captain Minton, outlining the position which I planned to present to the two bodies on the following day. We understand fully the position of the Navy Department and its inability, at least under present circumstances, to adopt a policy whereby all of the work taken by NROTC students would be within the framework of the regular bachelor of arts requirements.

The course we then pursued, as indicated to Captain Minton in our telephone talk, was outlined in the paper which I enclose and upon which action was taken by the University Council and by the board of Trustees on May 13th. Both bodies approved the position as set forth therein unanimously.

Dr. Halford and I then had a joint telephone conversation with Admiral Kinney and Captain Minton, outlining once more the line that we had taken as well as its implications for the future of the program at Columbia. In particular, it provides that no new freshman class would be enrolled for the coming school year and that the several students who had applied for admission to the Columbia NROTC should be informed accordingly.

Secondly, in line with our talks with Admiral Kinney, Captain Minton, and Captain Rehnberg, the sophomores of next year will take the junior naval courses, and the juniors of the following year will take the senior courses. Thus, all of the naval requirements of the students presently enrolled will have been completed by the spring of 1971. The last class, of course, would graduate in the spring of 1972 but during their senior year there would be no naval courses. This arrangement, of course, has implications for the naval instructional staff. We are working with Captain Rehnberg with regard to such requirements.

In particular, we hope that Captain Rehnberg, eminently fitted for his post, will be continued for another year. We have also agreed to the appointment of Commander Semeraro and Lieutenant Simmons.

We have been guided in our policy by determination to insure the right of the students currently enrolled in pursuing the approved program of instruction which will lead to a commission upon graduation.

We understand that the Navy Department may, in due course, develop other programs of officer procurement involving university students. If so, Columbia University will be glad to consult with the Department regarding its possible participation in such programs.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Cordier

Admiral Charles K. Duncan
Chief of Naval Personnel
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C. 20370

Enclosure

(to Cordier's statement of May 13 '69
"Future Status, ROTC")

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