

Proposed: ^{Dec. 5, 1975}
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December 5, 1975

Adopted: January 23, 1976
(as amended)

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ROTC AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Senate approve the report of the Special Committee to Study ROTC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy of Columbia University in regard to on-campus ROTC programs shall be:

1. Any arrangement between the Armed Services and the University is subject to the approval of the University Senate and shall meet the following conditions:
 - a) Academic credit may be awarded to a program only after the program and contents meet the criteria and standards of the faculty which recognizes such credit.
 - b) Service nominees may be charged with instruction and accorded faculty rank only in accordance with the usual appointment procedures.
 - c) No degree may be withheld for reasons not within the control of the University.
 - c) There shall be adequate safeguards for the academic freedom of the participants.
2. The contract between the Armed Services and a student enrolled in an ROTC program shall permit him or her to withdraw upon repayment, or provision for repayment within a reasonable period, of sums which the service has expended for his or her education without the punitive service liabilities now contingently applicable; nor may the contract require the student to forego the exercise of ordinary civil rights.

PROPONENT: Special Committee to Study
ROTC

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The University Senate

21 November 1975

THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY ROTC

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I. CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The mandate of the Committee was contained in the following resolution of the University Senate, December 6, 1974:

BE IT RESOLVED, That a special committee be appointed by the Executive Committee to study 1) the current status of any arrangements for ROTC programs in American private universities and especially our sister institutions of the Ivy League; 2) the current policies of the Department of Defense in regard to the conduct and support of ROTC programs; 3) any Federal or Department of Defense policies toward universities which relate to maintenance or nonmaintenance of ROTC programs; and 4) the recommendations or policies of previous official University bodies in regard to the acceptability of ROTC programs on this campus or in association with this University.

The sixteen members of the Special Committee include seven faculty members, two administrators, six students and one alumnus and they are: Stuart W. Bruchey (Faculty/GSAS), Wm. Theodore deBary (Provost/Central Administration), Dall W. Forsythe (Faculty/GS), Robert J. Foschi (Student/Engineering), William W. Golub (Alumnus), Lowell M. Greenbaum (Faculty/Health Sciences), Douglas A. Kellner (Student/Law), Frank Lancellotti (Student/College), John Medina (Student/GS), Stuart W. Miller (Student/College), Charles D. Parsons (Faculty/College), William H. Reinmuth (Faculty/GS), Michael Rosenthal (Associate Dean/College), John K. Tien, Committee Chairman (Faculty/Engineering), Steven C. Vaughn (Student/Law; resigned September 1975) and William F. Young (Faculty/Law).

II. REVIEW OF PAST POLICY

Existing policy toward ROTC programs derives from actions taken by the University in March 1969 in regard to the former NROTC program. These actions included the study and recommendations of the Mansfield Committee, and successive resolutions of the Columbia College Faculty, University Council and Board of Trustees. On May 13, 1969, the Trustees approved a resolution adopted by the University Council to the following effect:

The University administration should take prompt steps, in concert with other like-minded institutions if practicable, and with due regard for the interests of students presently enrolled, to terminate the present arrangements with the Navy Department for the NROTC program and seek instead a relationship in which;

1. After this academic year, any course offered as part of the naval training program shall carry credit toward the satisfaction of degree requirements only if it is also listed in the offerings of a regular academic department.
2. Personnel assigned to the training program as instructors shall not be ex officio members of any faculty of the University, and shall not hold academic rank unless appointed according to regular procedures.
3. The University may furnish office space and related facilities to the Navy for the administration of a counseling service to students in connection with an NROTC program, but shall not allocate free space on campus to the Navy for drill or for instructional purposes, whether or not for academic credit.
4. The contract between the Navy and a student enrolled in an NROTC program should, like an NDEA loan, permit him to withdraw upon repayment (or provision for repayment within a reasonable period) of sums the Navy has laid out for his education, without the punitive service liabilities now contingently applicable; nor should the contract require the student to forgo the exercise of ordinary civil rights, like marriage.

The resolutions of the College Faculty and University Council called on the President to engage in negotiations with the Navy to secure modification of the existing NROTC program and affirmed their support for programs which would enable students to engage in such training on advantageous and acceptable terms. President Cordier reported on July 7, 1969,

on his efforts to implement these policies:

The Navy was invited to continue its NROTC program exactly as at present with the exception that the Department of Naval Science would be transferred to an extracurricular status. We were informed by the Navy that it would be impossible for them to do so within the framework of the presently applicable laws.

I hope that some mutually acceptable form of naval officer training can be developed in the future at Columbia for the benefit of those students who will wish to qualify for commission in preparation for careers in the Navy.

After a careful review of current policies in the Department of Defense and at other educational institutions, this Committee unanimously reaffirms the principles set by the University Council in 1969. The Committee has not been able to find any reason why these policies should be modified at this time, or at any time in the near future. The Committee believes that these principles reflect valuable academic objectives regardless of the political atmosphere that may have been the catalyst toward their initial adoption.

The Committee does not oppose a University role in military education, provided that such a role does not conflict with the standards and values and the overall academic and social objectives of the University. The Committee, however, believes that current legal restraints of the Reserved Officer Training Corps would require substantial modification before ROTC programs could be accommodated within the University curriculum.

III. ROTC PROGRAMS AND DOD POLICIES

A. Basic Requirements for ROTC Programs

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps Vitalization Act of 1964 establishes the parameters for the operation of ROTC programs at the baccalaureate level. The Act provides:

No unit may be established or maintained unless:

- (1) the senior commissioned officer of the armed force concerned who is assigned to the program at that institution is given the academic rank of professor;
- (2) the institution fulfills the terms of its agreement with the Secretary of the military department concerned; and
- (3) the institution adopts, as part of its curriculum, a four-year course of military instruction or a two-year course for advanced training of military instruction, or both, which the Secretary of the military department concerned prescribes and conducts ...

The law provides that enrolled students fall within three possible contractual categories:

- (1) Scholarship students. In return for a full tuition scholarship and subsistence allowance, the enrollee agrees to four years participation in the ROTC course, four years of active duty and two years of reserve duty.
- (2) First Two Years Without Scholarship. The student receives a subsistence allowance with no commitment more than to attend freshman and sophomore ROTC classes and the summer training programs.
- (3) Last Two Years Without Scholarship. The Student receives a subsistence allowance in return for an obligation to complete the ROTC program, two years of active duty and four years in the reserves.

The Secretary of the military department concerned has broad authority to waive service requirements, and often does so when there are more ROTC graduates than the military requires. The law also gives the Secretaries power to draft students who fail

to fulfill their obligations under the contract.

The Army, Navy and Air Force have each indicated interest in establishing units at Columbia. The services would expect that space be provided for classrooms, offices and the storage of equipment. They would also require adequate area for parade grounds and a shooting range. The Navy has indicated that it would require a minimum annual enrollment of 25; the Army would require at least 15.

All units are subject to the military discipline of the armed services, and enrolled students may be disciplined in accordance with procedures set by the individual service. Grounds for possible dismissal and sanctions are broad and sometimes vague and include subject matter which the University would disregard under its own regulations for dismissal. ROTC hearing procedures are also at variance with University standards. The Committee was particularly concerned with the Army requirement that the University agree that fulfillment of the terms of a ROTC contract must be prerequisite to institutional graduation.

All of the services have restrictions on admission to ROTC programs that are incongruous with University admissions policies. These include limitations based on loyalty and moral beliefs. The Navy also requires that its ROTC candidates agree to remain unmarried until graduation from the program. ROTC regulations provide that course content, disciplinary regulations and procedures and ranking systems be prescribed by the respective armed service with virtually no role for the sponsoring academic institution.

B. Alternatives to the On-Campus ROTC Programs

The Committee has noted that several universities have called upon the Department of Defense to establish regional ROTC centers that would not be affiliated with any particular institution. In large cities where there are several baccalaureate institutions, the Armed Services could save considerable amounts of money by consolidating all of its individual units under a single roof. This would eliminate needless duplication of facilities and services. In addition, consolidation would solve the problem of insufficient enrollment in units by bringing together all of those in the region who are interested in that particular service. While educational institutions might still be called upon to provide some services such as recruitment and counselling, there would no longer exist

the problem of integrating the ROTC program into the curriculum of the institution itself.

In spite of numerous calls for this off-campus consolidation of ROTC in urban areas, the Department of Defense has shown little interest.

Students who wish to serve in the military after graduation do have other options besides attending ROTC at their own college. At the current time there are several Columbia students who are members of ROTC at other universities in the New York area even though they are registered at Columbia. The Armed Services do not encourage such programs, but do allow them for those Columbia students who are particularly interested in the ROTC program.

Finally, another avenue open to students is the Post Graduate Officers' Training Program offered by all three services for those who volunteer for three years of service.

C. Current Policies and Programs at Other Universities

The Committee surveyed a wide variety of programs at other universities, but reports here only the substance of the arrangements prevailing at institutions most comparable to ourselves. Among the major universities which have ROTC programs are Cornell, Michigan, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

Cornell has an active ROTC program with the three major branches of the services represented. The Educational Policy Committee of each of their seven undergraduate colleges decides upon whether credit for courses taught by military personnel is to be granted. Generally, no unit gives credit for the first two years. Credit in the upperclass years varies from college to college. Any new course developed by the military, to be taught by the military, must pass through a Faculty Council of Representatives Committee on University-ROTC Relations. Military instructors are not granted academic rank, but the chief commandant of each unit is given the courtesy rank of professor.

The University of Michigan has three ROTC programs which have recently been evaluated. Staff members are recognized by their military titles; academic titles are granted only to those qualified by discipline authorized by a specific school. The military departments of the University have been replaced by programs without departmental status. Married students are eligible for the program and the Assistant to the Vice-President for Academic

Affairs reports that "the contract has less stringent requirement, particularly in regard to withdrawal and penalty thereto". While the three services are reported to be "~~not~~ particularly satisfied with" the agreement at Michigan, this is probably attributable to the low rate of student participation.

Only the Army ROTC is now represented at Princeton, but there the divorce from academic standing is almost complete. Instructors do not hold faculty rank, but the commandant holds the courtesy title of professor. No course credit is given. Indeed, ROTC is treated like any other extracurricular activity, e.g., the registrar is unaware of which students are in ROTC. This arrangement at Princeton is commonly referred to as the Princeton Plan.

Active ROTC program also exist at the University of Pennsylvania. The enrollments in the programs appear to be increasing, including the enrollment of women cadets.

Under circumstances similar to those experienced by Columbia, the ROTC programs at Yale, Harvard, Brown and Dartmouth were discontinued during 1969-1970. For reasons very much like Columbia's, it appears highly unlikely that Yale, Harvard or Brown will initiate steps towards the re-establishment of ROTC programs on their campuses. The current situation at Dartmouth is uncertain. There appears to be a strong likelihood that Dartmouth will commence negotiations with the armed services for the re-establishment of ROTC programs on its campus.

D. Past Sanctions Against Columbia University

The threat of sanctions against Columbia and other institutions* that were deemed noncooperative by the Department of Defense with regard to ROTC programs was manifested in the form of the so-called Hebert Amendment (1972), which would have denied universities defense contracts and grants if they had discontinued ROTC programs. This bill was actively opposed by many institutions including the Association of American Universities and never

*Boston University, Boston College, Brown University, Colgate University, Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Hobart College, New York University, Pratt Institute, Stanford University, State University of New York at Buffalo, Tufts University and Yale University.

became law. This Committee found no evidence that DOD grants or contracts were denied Columbia because of the ROTC issue. However, sanctions did take the form of specific Defense Department policy and practice that prevented the enrollment of Defense Department personnel in programs at Columbia and the other noncooperating institutions. These restrictions were lifted by the Department of Defense on 30 September, 1975. The discriminatory policy of DOD, while it existed (1969-1975), did significantly affect short course and degree enrollment in various units at Columbia University including the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and especially the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The Defense Department's current policy is that equal consideration will be given to all colleges and universities in providing advanced schooling to military personnel regardless of whether any of the schools "unilaterally" withdrew from ROTC programs. This action will now permit each service or component of a service to determine which schools or programs best satisfy the needs of the respective military student.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the information gathered and reported in substance above, the Committee offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

General Conclusions

1. In general the conditions attached to the new ROTC contracts reported above and the policies of the Department of Defense appear to be substantially similar to the conditions prevailing in 1969 when the current University policies were adopted. In several particulars, the ROTC contract terms that we understand to be mandated to the schools at present are inconsistent with Columbia's policies.

2. Interest in or opposition to ROTC at Columbia varies from school to school, but in any case there is no evidence of strong demand on the part of students at present.

3. Several major institutions find the presence of ROTC units acceptable. Even in these schools, however, there are some indications of friction or at least concern about some aspects of the relationship, especially with respect to the rights of the service to discipline students.

4. We have not been able to identify any major adverse effect on federal grants and contracts at Columbia which can be attributed to the discontinuance of ROTC. If any pressure was meant to be exerted on Columbia, it was clearly resisted and manifestly unsuccessful in inducing a change in policies.

5. Possibilities exist for Columbia students to enroll in training programs off-campus. The facilitation of such individual arrangements with neighboring institutions on terms compatible with the student's degree candidacy at Columbia, is a more feasible and less problematical way to assist those interested in ROTC programs than a contractual arrangement entered into by the University itself. The development of regional centers for officer training also seems to be an acceptable alternative to an on-campus training program.

General Recommendations for Policy on Armed Services Training Programs

The Committee finds that the basic principles governing ROTC programs as adopted by the University on the basis of the Mansfield report are still valid. As currently constituted, ROTC programs exert a degree of control over student and institution alike which remains unacceptable to Columbia University. The University, however, recognizes the potential value of cooperation with the educational and training programs maintained by the armed services, and is prepared to participate in, or share its own educational resources with, such programs when the arrangements are consistent with the statutes, policies and procedures of the University and when mutually advantageous arrangements can be made between the University and these services.

It is recognized that the University customarily entrusts to its several schools and departments the initiative with respect to new degree programs and faculty appointments. However, any negotiations for an ROTC program are subject to the approval of the University Senate and shall meet the conditions below.

Recommendation 1.

Any arrangement between the Armed Services and the University shall meet the following conditions:

- A) Academic credit may be awarded to a program only after the program and contents meet the criteria and standards of the faculty which recognizes such credit.
- B) Service nominees may be charged with instruction and accorded faculty rank only in accordance with the usual appointment procedures.
- C) No degree may be withheld for reasons not within the control of the University.
- D) There shall be adequate safeguards for the academic freedom of the participants.

The Committee is particularly concerned that a student may be required to serve in the Armed Forces as a consequence of his behavior while in the University. The strictures in Recommendation 1 (C) and (D) apply to cases where this Service is compelled as a sanction for the student's conduct while in College. However, if it is exacted only as an exchange for a financial subvention, the ground for University concern is less obvious. Certainly the stance of the University should be generally protective of the ordinary civil privileges of its members. However, those privileges do not include exceptional immunity either to conscription or to commitments based on exchange. The difficulty is that, by sponsoring an ROTC program, the University would become in some sense a party to the relation of exchange between a student participant and the contracting service.

Recommendation 2.

We therefore recommend that the contract between the Armed Services and a student enrolled in an ROTC program shall permit him or her to withdraw upon repayment, or provision for repayment within a reasonable period, of sums which the Service has expended for his or her education without the punitive service liabilities now contingently applicable; nor may the contract require the student to forgo the exercise of ordinary civil rights.