



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Physics

To Dean Barbara Schaal
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Campus Box 1094

Dean Jennifer Smith
Faculty of Arts and Sciences/ Curriculum Committee
Campus Box 1117

From Michael Friedlander

Re: R.O.T.C.

MWF

For Trevor -
to add to

Info on ROTC
for Curr Comm
October 10, 2013

Last week, a student interviewed me for his article that has now appeared in Student Life, and thus I learned that the matter of academic credit for R.O.T.C. was being considered.

I am writing to you as I was closely associated with this issue when I was chairman of the Faculty Council, (1966 - 68) and then chairman of the Senate Council (1968 - 71).

After extensive discussion in meetings of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and then of the Faculty Senate, a resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 14, 1970. A copy is attached. The central issue addressed by the Resolution was set out in Paragraph 1:

'The Senate reaffirms its support of the principle that courses awarded credit by any division of the University should be taught or evaluated by personnel whose appointment has been approved by an academic dean.'

This requirement is central to the academic freedom of the university and its faculty. While a dean must approve each appointment and issue the annual letters of reappointment, only the faculty can interview and recommend the appointment of faculty. Approval by the university administration is still required, but the initiation must come from faculty within an academic department.



Only the faculty can propose, review and adopt the content of a course that carries academic credit, via the Curriculum Committee.

The selection of faculty and the content of courses cannot be initiated by the university administration nor by the Board of Trustees. Still less, can course content be imposed by a legislative body.

For example, faculty might agree to include evolution as a topic within a course, but we cannot allow any external bodies or individuals to impose the requirements or restrictions on the inclusion of evolution.

R.O.T.C. satisfies neither of these requirements. The selection of R.O.T.C. instructors and the content of their courses are under the control of the Department of Defense and not by the university faculty.

Accordingly, I am opposed to any decision of the faculty, in any division of the university, to reinstate the academic credit for R.O.T.C. courses, and I would be glad to meet with the Curriculum Committee to speak to these issues.

I must also note that Paragraph 2 of the Senate's April 1970 resolution expressed the faculty's concern that R.O.T.C. be available to our students:

2. The Senate urges the Chancellor to explore whether it is feasible, consistent with the principles of Paragraph One, and in consultation with the University Senate, to ensure that ROTC courses be available to Washington University students who wish to participate in the program.

Resolve of the Faculty Senate on ROTC, as amended and adopted, April 14, 1970

1. The Senate reaffirms its support of the principle that courses awarded credit by any division of the University should be taught or evaluated by personnel whose appointment has been approved by an academic dean.
2. The Senate urges the Chancellor to explore whether it is feasible, consistent with the principles of Paragraph One, and in consultation with the University Senate, to insure that ROTC courses be available to Washington University students who wish to participate in the program.
3. The Senate condemns acts of violence, vandalism and disruption by members of the university community or others and urges the Administration to take firm action to curb such acts in accordance with properly established judicial procedures, internal or external.

Note: The original resolve did not number the paragraphs. I have added numbers because Paragraph Two takes them for granted. The phrase "internal or external" in Paragraph Three was originally placed between "established" and "judicial". In the interests of syntactical clarity, I have moved it to the end of the sentence.

John M. Murrin

John Murrin
(History)
was the Secretary
to the Senate Council