



June 23, 2010

Mr. Roland W. Betts
Chairman
Chelsea Piers, L.P.
Pier 62, Suite 300
New York, NY 10011

Re: Yale University

Dear Mr. Betts:

As you are surely aware, the House of Representatives and Senate Armed Services Committee recently voted to repeal the 1993 provision commonly known as “don’t ask, don’t tell.” The full Senate is expected to vote soon. Meanwhile, President Obama, Defense Secretary Gates and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have already expressed their support for repeal.

Given clear indications that “don’t ask, don’t tell” is on its way out, the primary stated objection to ROTC’s return on campus is being removed. It therefore appears to be an opportune time for the board to address this important issue.

In the past, faculty and administrators have suggested that the decision to have an ROTC presence on campus belongs to them. While their input and opinion are surely essential on academic concerns, it is the board that has ultimate oversight of matters concerning student life and welfare.

ROTC’s exclusion from campus has surely disadvantaged those students who have chosen to explore military careers and must travel many miles off campus to do so. The lack of a campus presence has also rendered it difficult for students to learn more about ROTC.

We, of course, understand that restoring ROTC entails both administrative and academic challenges, especially with regard to managing ROTC’s place within the regular academic life of the university. But, that is why it is vital to act now.

A committee of the Stanford Faculty Senate is currently charged with discussing the return of ROTC to campus. Meanwhile, other Ivy League institutions already have in place options for integrating ROTC into undergraduate academic life. Princeton, Dartmouth, Cornell and Penn all have ROTC programs on campus, and both Penn and Cornell give academic credit for at least some ROTC classes.

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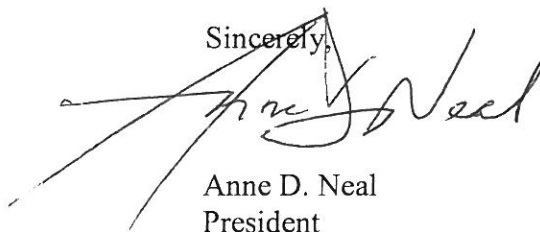
Mr. Roland W. Betts
June 23, 2010
Page Two

We are concerned about the increasing divide between the military and civil society, which we believe is at least partially attributable to the barring of ROTC programs from many university campuses. We, therefore, urge the board immediately to communicate the value and desirability of restoring ROTC to campus, and to call upon the administration and faculty to study the matter and report, within a reasonable timeframe, on how this might be accomplished.

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization with a network of 10,000 trustees as well as alumni from your institution and hundreds of others around the country. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss ROTC's future with you, and respectfully request that you inform us at your earliest convenience as to how you will address this critical issue.

Warm best wishes and thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne D. Neal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Anne D. Neal
President

cc: George Leonard Baker, Jr., fellow, Yale Corporation
Edward Perry Bass, fellow, Yale Corporation
Jeffrey Lawrence Bewkes, fellow, Yale Corporation
Peter Brendan Dervan, fellow, Yale Corporation
Donna Lee Dubinsky, fellow, Yale Corporation
Mimi Gardner Gates, fellow, Yale Corporation
Paul Lewis Joskow, fellow, Yale Corporation
Neal Leonard Keny-Guyer, fellow, Yale Corporation
Margaret Hilary Marshall, fellow, Yale Corporation
William Irwin Miller, fellow, Yale Corporation
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Michael Fedele, Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut
Richard Charles Levin, president, Yale University