Credit dropped
Harvard faculty denies ROTC academic position in university

By Larry Klein

The Harvard faculty voted Tuesday to withdraw academic credit from all ROTC courses at Harvard.

The action brings to an end the controversy between administration, faculty, and student activist groups that has led to the end of ROTC.

By a vote of 205-125 the Faculty approved a proposal backed by the Student Faculty Advisory Committee (SFAC) calling for the end of ROTC’s academic credit, Corporation appointments, and free use of Harvard buildings.

Earlier, the Faculty soundly defeated an SDS-backed motion to expand ROTC onto campus. Another proposal, which would allow ROTC courses to supply credit individually through various Harvard departments, also lost.

The proposal adopted by the Harvard Faculty was passed by the University’s SFAC last December. It called for four main steps to end ROTC of its academic status: withholding academic credit from all ROTC courses, ending Harvard Corporation appointments for ROTC instructors, removing from the general Harvard course catalog ROTC course descriptions, and terminating ROTC’s rent-free use of Harvard buildings, and replacing last ROTC scholarships with Harvard scholarship funds.

Nine invited students attended the Faculty meeting at which academic credit was withdrawn from ROTC courses. This made the meeting the first “open” faculty meeting in Harvard’s long history. Only one of the students, however, actually spoke during the affair.

This minor liberalization of the faculty meeting comes after a confrontation between students and faculty in December. At this time, SDS members demanded the right to attend a meeting of the Harvard faculty, traditionally closed to students, in which ROTC’s status on campus was to be discussed. When the faculty refused, the SDS decided to sit in at Paine Hall where the meeting was to be held. The students would not move when pressed, and, as a result, their name cards were collected and the meeting cancelled. The Harvard faculty, in mid-January, then voted to place their students on probation.

Harvard’s contract with the Defense Department requires a full one-year notice before any changes can be made in ROTC’s program, so the action by the Harvard faculty will not affect ROTC courses of this Spring or next Fall.

Moreover, the SFAC proposal made no mention of the possibility of ROTC gaining a new “extracurricular organization.” The Defense Department must thus decide whether it wishes to negotiate a new contract with the Harvard Corporation to permit ROTC to remain on campus after its credit is withdrawn.

Men, machines fight snowy winds

By Vicki Haliburton

In spite of the general consensus on Physical Plant’s efficiency, especially in taking care of the lighting in the Institute buildings, our dedicated groundkeepers have the sidewalks well-traveled— from nine to five at least. Also contrary to popular opinion, Physical Plant men are human. All those interviewed, although they implied that the interviewer was a little clairvoyant were very helpful and polite.

Snow clearing at the Institute is more of an emergency affair than an everyday routine. When a heavy snowfall begins, nearly the entire groundskeeping staff is called in, using every sort of equipment from small bulldozers to hand shovels. Everyone pitches in—“even the bosses,” says one of the dedicated shovelers. The job isn’t very difficult, apparently, another worker says that “the machines do most of the work,” and one rotates jobs to avoid tedium and boredom.

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Snowplow

Training doesn’t seem to be much of a problem either. Although learning to operate the snowplows may take some time, most of the men have been working with Physical Plant for several years, and consider snow removal just part of the job.

However, working conditions may leave something to be desired. One man mentioned that he found it pleasant to be outdoors earlier in the morning. It was beginning to get unendurable.

In spite of the difficulties and discomforts involved, many of our Physical Plant’s workers see the high clearing the Institute’s walls of snow.