Radicals seek ROTC end

By Lee Geggan

President William Watson of the Humanities Department attributed the reversal of the decision not to grant him tenure to a letter-writing campaign directed at Provost Jerome Weisner.

Watson had been told last November that he would not receive tenure, but was notified of the new decision during spring vacation. The importance of the reversal, he said, was that it was the first time a collective effort had succeeded in changing a decision. The campaign was initiated by junior faculty members in the history section of Course XXI and by some of Watson's former students "in the belief that the decision should not have been made."

Besides winning tenure for Watson, the effort won a permanent change in the tenure decision procedures of the section. In the future, Watson said, the junior faculty will be consulted, "serious student input will be sought," and the published work of the candidate will be read by everyone involved. He added that the evaluation would be made on the basis of criteria on which "people agree beforehand. Not just publication, but service to the community would be among the criteria.

The original reason for the denial of tenure to Watson was, he said, "lack of serious publication." He had published no books, and not enough articles. In explanation, Watson admitted that he was a "slow publisher," and noted that his involvement in political actions had delayed his writings. The war, though, was "not an excuse," said Watson, noting also that he had changed fields.

The new decision was based on what he termed "new evidence." He had presented a new perspective, and his work had already been known about him. Watson called it ironic that the original decision had been "unprofessional" because of its narrow criteria.

Watson reiterated his statement about the original decision, saying that he "didn't think it was political," although he added that, "If it was political, you'd never know." He believed that there have been cases in which tenure had been denied for political reasons.

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By Bruce Peetz

In an unusually short meeting Tuesday night, the General Assembly supported the suspension of classes by the faculty.

The motion, proposed by Bob Hunter '73, was passed by a 45-5 vote after almost no discussion. The motion also requested that the faculty extend the suspension until it is established "by community meeting" that the strike has concluded.

The Assembly as "the elected representatives of the undergraduates" sent telegram to the Senate and President Nixon calling for the "immediate withdrawal of American troops."

Since the recent quorum change, the General Assembly has been plagued by attendance problems.

Watson granted tenure; letters spur reversal

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