

# UNIVERSITY

## Campus hiring policies examined

ROTC policies appear in conflict with University standards

By Carrie Dennett  
Emerald Reporter

In the early 1980s the University was one of the first to examine the seeming contradiction between its anti-discrimination policy and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps' (ROTC) anti-gay policies, yet now it lags behind the times.

Recently, however, there is a resurgence of attention to this issue. Many students and faculty are asking the administration to admit that a contradiction exists between the two policies, and take some sort of action.

ROTC allows any student to enroll in its classes through the military science department, but homosexuals are excluded from ROTC scholarships, faculty jobs and military commissions as part of the Department of Defense's policy which bans gays and lesbians from military service.

Nationally, several colleges and universities have taken action ranging from issuing written statements to the military to protest discriminatory policies, to actually giving ROTC the boot.

Stefan Stent, a student senator and former ROTC cadet,

said kicking ROTC off campus is too extreme. "I don't want the ROTC to be suspended ... I want the University to take a stand on the issue."

Stent wants to send a letter of protest from students and faculty to the national head of ROTC. He has presented the idea to both the Student Senate and University Senate and plans to address a University student/faculty committee when they meet in January. The committee includes Lt. Col. Jim Hinton, head of the University's ROTC program, who could not be reached for comment.

Stent said a definitive stand against the anti-gay policies by the University would help initiate a positive change in military policy around the country.

Associate philosophy professor Cheyney Ryan said the administration needs to take action of some kind. "Anything is better than what they have done, which is nothing," he said, adding that any step taken by the administration would be a show of good faith to support their claim that they take their anti-discrimination policy seriously.

"The University has (an anti-discrimination) policy. If it's

not going to enforce it, it shouldn't have it," he said, adding that although the University is not the source of the discrimination, they are still part of it.

The administration maintains that the discriminatory nature of the scholarships is isolated from the University because the funds come from the Department of Defense.

Ryan disagrees with this stance because of the unique relationship between ROTC and the University's military science department. "There wouldn't be a military science program if it weren't for those scholarships."

He said ROTC gets away with discrimination in scholarships and faculty status that would not be tolerated in other departments.



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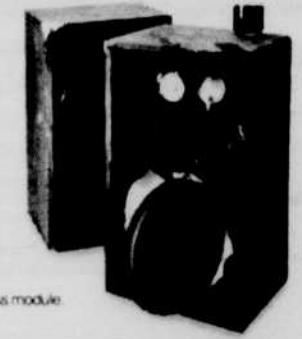
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