

An open letter to the Stanford Administration regarding the consideration of transgender students in the debate over ROTC:

We are writing on behalf of Stanford Students for Queer Liberation (SSQL) to express our concern with the conflation of the debates on Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT). No doubt, the repeal of DADT was a historic moment for a great number of lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members who have been and continue to be part of the military. We are alarmed, however, that the repeal of this legislation has been used to justify a re-introduction of ROTC at Harvard University and we fear that other universities, including Stanford, might use a similar logic. We previously published an op-ed in the *Stanford Daily* stating our group's position on ROTC: we both oppose DADT and oppose having our cause, as queer and allied students, co-opted as grounds on which to usher military recruitment onto campus.

But now, with DADT no longer in the picture, our position has a new urgency and focus. In the debate over ROTC, both sides seem to have forgotten about transgender students, who will still face explicitly discriminatory policies in ROTC and the military in general. Transgender status or a Gender Identity Disorder (GID) diagnosis alone can disqualify a student for open military service. The Uniform Code of Military Justice does not allow transgender individuals to serve openly (yes, even with the DADT repeal in place). Various military bureaucratic entities include DD-215 forms in the military, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service do not contain provisions to alter gender (from male to female or vice versa). Furthermore, numerous Veteran's Affairs medical services including prostate exams, pap smears, and mammograms are routinely denied to transgender veterans.

In light of these discriminatory military policies, Harvard president Drew Faust seems to have overlooked the inclusion of "gender identity" in Harvard's anti-discrimination clause when reintroducing ROTC and we urge Stanford not to make the same egregious error. Our own non-discrimination clause states, "Stanford University admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and **gender identity** to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University."

In other words, the military is not an affirming, or even open, option for transgender students. A re-introduction of ROTC, therefore, constitutes a violation of our non-discrimination clause. We are writing to ask that you use your administrative influence to oppose ROTC and support the civil liberties you have helped to establish strongly in the Stanford community. We realize this is not an easy decision to make, but we feel partnering against ROTC is essential to upholding our school's fundamental ethic of equal opportunity. Please also know that we are also circulating this letter to other Stanford administrators as well as local and national media outlets.

Stanford Students for Queer Liberation