



#### Board of Directors

Robert T. Lewit, Chairman  
Jane Fraser  
Edwin Meese III  
Carl B. Menges  
Anne D. Neal  
Terence P. Ross  
Sandra Stotsky  
Jody Wolfe

#### Council of Scholars

George E. Andrews  
*Pennsylvania State University*  
Mark Bauerlein  
*Emory University*  
Marc Zvi Brettler  
*Brandeis University*  
William Cook  
*SUNY-Genesee*  
Paul Davies  
*College of William & Mary*  
David C. Doughty, Jr.  
*Christopher Newport University*  
William Fagan  
*University of Maryland*  
Judith Farr  
*Georgetown University*  
Sidney L. Gulick III  
*University of Maryland*  
Robert "KC" Johnson  
*CUNY Brooklyn College*  
Anatoly M. Khazanov  
*University of Wisconsin*  
Alan Charles Kors  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
Jon D. Levenson  
*Harvard Divinity School*  
Molly Levine  
*Howard University*  
George R. Lucas, Jr.  
*US Naval Academy*  
Joyce Lee Malcolm  
*George Mason University*  
Matthew A. Malkan  
*UCLA*  
Michael Podgursky  
*University of Missouri*  
James A. Sellers  
*Pennsylvania State University*

March 25, 2016

Dear Trustee:

We applaud the decision to welcome Navy ROTC and Army ROTC back on campus. It is clear from the growth of the program that these efforts have helped ROTC students feel more welcome and navigate more easily their many responsibilities.

The recent campus visit by Air Force General McDew demonstrates that much progress has been made since we last contacted you, urging that Harvard formally recognize ROTC.

We remain concerned, however, that Harvard still maintains policies that undermine ROTC students' potential for success. We are disappointed to learn that Harvard still has not yet created a policy governing course credit for the ROTC courses required and that meet, upon objective review, the academic standards of credit-bearing courses at the College.

In our earlier correspondence, we suggested that one of the key benefits of an on-campus program would be to facilitate cadets' ability to gain course credit for required ROTC classwork. Given the hard work and service of ROTC cadets, it makes sense to provide as much institutional support as possible. In *The Crimson*'s feature, "Boots on the Ground: ROTC at Harvard," Daniel T. Fisher, codirector of the Harvard Veterans' Organization, vividly outlines the cadets' frustrations in receiving no credit for the six to nine additional ROTC classes needed on top of the Harvard course load.

While it is true that some ROTC courses may not be appropriate for Harvard credit, others certainly may be. We understand that the faculty will want to develop their own standards, but the credit practices at other schools surely suggest this can be done. Penn students who participate

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXCELLENCE

1730 M Street NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036  
T (202) 467-6787; (888) ALUMNI-8 F (202) 467-6784 info@GoACTA.org www.GoACTA.org

March 25, 2016

Page 2

in Naval ROTC, for instance, can gain credit toward majors in certain schools. Yale allows some ROTC classes to count for credit, provided they are shown to be appropriately rigorous. Yale professors worked with ROTC staff to design special upper-level classes that would meet Yale's academic requirements while covering the necessary ROTC material. Georgetown and Berkeley both offer academic credit for ROTC classes.

Allowing appropriate course credit would not only accommodate ROTC students, who must complete substantial additional work, but also ensure that they feel supported, encouraging closer and more meaningful mentoring relationships between professors and students.

When ROTC was reinstated, Harvard surely let the public, families, and alumni believe that it once again recognized the mutual benefit to be gained from working with the military services. Allowing appropriate course credit for ROTC students would exhibit the university's dedication.

That roadblocks remain is of profound concern. We look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you for your attention to these matters.

Warm best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne D. Neal", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne D. Neal '77 HLS '80  
President