

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release

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**Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate
Forms Task Force on Military Engagement**

NEW YORK, December 20, 2010 — The Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate announced today the formation of a Task Force on Military Engagement in light of the U.S. Congress's recent repeal of 10 U.S.C. § 654 (commonly termed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell").

The Student Affairs Committee is the mandated body to lead the discussion on the Reserve Officers Training Corps. The Student Affairs Committee will govern the task force and continue the Senate's work in handling issues affecting Columbia University students and the military.

One of the major military issues affecting students is whether or not the University should formally participate in a Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

During the spring semester, the Task Force on Military Engagement will:

- Hold University Senate hearings open to the University community.
- Conduct a survey with respect to Reserve Officers Training Corps.
- Serve as a resource by providing fact-based information about the issues involved.

Dates for the public events will be announced by the beginning of the spring term.

Tao Tan, CC '07, MBA '11, chair of the Student Affairs Committee announced the appointment of Ron Mazor, CC '09, Law '12, as chair of the Task Force. Other members of the Task Force are drawn from across the Student Affairs Committee and include both undergraduate and graduate students.

"The Senate's top priority is that the student voice is heard. Ron is deeply familiar with the culture and academic environment at Columbia, particularly its undergraduate programs. We are fully confident he will use this, along with his knowledge of law and procedure, in a way that uphold fairness of process, and that best represents the student body," Tan said.

Since the fall semester, the Student Affairs Committee's governing principles with respect to examining military engagement are:

- Our top priority is that the student voice is heard. Thus, this will be a student-driven, not a faculty-dominated process.
- We will take no action until and unless "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is repealed legislatively or judicially.

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- We will take no position on Reserve Officers Training Corps at present, until and unless student body opinion is gauged.

For further information about the Task Force on Military Engagement, or to provide feedback, please contact the Task Force at rotc-taskforce@columbia.edu.

About the Columbia University Senate

The Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate is comprised of the 25 elected student Senators and observers within the Columbia University Senate. The Student Affairs Committee is not a student government, but serves as “first among equals” of the student representative organizations, as the only body that comprehensively represents all 30,000 students across all 19 constituent and affiliated schools of Columbia University. The Student Affairs Committee takes an active role in shaping University-wide policy, and participating in University governance.

The Columbia University Senate is the University-wide legislative and policy-making body at Columbia University. It is mandated to consider all matters affecting more than one school, or that of the entire University. The Senate is comprised of 108 elected and appointed members, representing faculty, students, administration, staff, alumni, and research officers. The Senate was established in 1969.