

In the early 1980s, when I was the school's general counsel, Yale president Bart Giamatti asked me to meet discreetly with Reserve Officers' Training Corps officials to find out what would be involved if the university wanted the program to return to campus.

I met accordingly with Navy ROTC program managers in Pensacola, Fla., who explained the situation to me. In short, it was not a simple matter of an Ivy League college asking ROTC to return. There were program requirements, which were the original problems to begin with, such as granting ROTC instructors faculty status and titles, providing satisfactory physical facilities, and giving academic credit for ROTC courses. The Yale faculty had balked at these requirements, and hence gave ROTC no choice but to leave campus. The Vietnam War was the backdrop, but not the publicly stated reason.

Moreover, the ROTC officials pointed out that the program was popular, and there was a waiting list of institutions; would it be fair for an Ivy League school to jump ahead of others? And with the military's interest in greater diversity in the officer corps, wouldn't state colleges in other sections of the country be of more interest to the military than an 'elite Northeastern college?' Note, however, that universities such as MIT and Princeton found workarounds to these issues and kept ROTC programs.

From letter he wrote to Boston Globe published Xmas day 2010.