Yale Riot Protests Tenure Denial

By SANDY COYNER

Thrasher Staff Reporter

"Ultimately the faculty must decide who the faculty shall be. Appointments and promotions should not be made either by presidential decree or by student ballot," said Yale University President Kingman Brewster in a statement released Monday.

Brewster refused to interfere with the decision of the committee on tenure appointments, to grant tenure to Richard J. Bernstein, a 32 year old Associate Professor of Philosophy.

The tenure refusal had caused much controversy on the Yale campus. Students picketed for three days around the clock, claiming a "publish or perish" policy had been responsible for the committee's decision.

Loses On Second Vote

Students called Bernstein a "creative teacher" and claimed the committee had refused tenure because Bernstein had not written enough books. The students also pointed out that Bernstein had received the unanimous recommendation of his department for the appointment.

The student picketing was called off when the committee announced it would reconsider the case. Brewster, returning from a vacation in the Bahamas, investigated the case as a result of "the widespread commotion," learned that the department's recommendation "was not unqualified," Brewster asked the tenure committee "to request an unambiguous statement" from the department while reconsidering the case.

The department reconsidered, and at this time voted five to two against recommendation of Bernstein for the appointment.

Another Committee

In his statement, Brewster acknowledged the importance of teaching ability as a criterion for professorial appointments, but pointed out the difficulty of judging it.

"I do not doubt that we can improve the ways of judging a man's worth especially as a teacher, as well as in terms of scholarship," Brewster said. "I want to pursue this further with the faculty and deans and students."

Brewster has arranged the appointment of an ad hoc committee "to discuss the policies, criteria and procedures for appointments and promotions." He encouraged student suggestions to this committee.

Yale's tenure system contains the relatively unusual provision that an appointment to the rank of Associate Professor need not include an appointment to tenure, which is appointment for life. Usually the appointment to either Associate of Full Professor includes tenure.

Yale Is Different

Yale's tenure committee in-