

March 3, 1967

Dear President Sterling,

In behalf of the Stanford Anti-Draft Union and the Stanford chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, we request you to take steps as soon as possible to end university participation in the Selective Service System. We ask you to cease computing academic standing, and to withhold information on students' grades from the local draft boards, as well as to refuse to administer selective service examinations.

The Selective Service System is an undemocratic and coercive institution used by our government to channel young men into the military, and other strategic occupations, often against their will. It is discriminatory, capricious, often punitive, always brutalizing. Its character is completely contradictory to free institutions, particularly to the university.

We are students at Stanford University because we wish to learn in an atmosphere of freedom- freedom of inquiry, freedom of action, freedom of thought. The university's cooperation with the Selective Service denies us these freedoms by making our work subject to investigation, and possible punishment, by local draft boards. Those of us with low class standing feel constant pressure to earn better grades, often at the expense of doing other valuable and interesting work. Those of us with high standing are made to feel that our grades are sending others into the army. We are denied a choice of majors: in order to stay in school, we are forced to study subjects the Selective Service deems important, and to ignore others, regardless of our abilities. We are all students together, and we wish to stand together in facing the draft. We do not think it right that some students should enjoy advantages over others in this respect.

Local boards will be reviewing classifications next summer on the basis of information supplied to them in June. It is urgent that you act now to stop the university from supplying them with such information.

Richard Bogart
Gary Coutin