

RESOLUTION BY STANFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

5/16/68

Whereas Stanford University exists to increase human knowledge and to develop understanding and respect for truth, especially among its own faculty and students;

Whereas the pursuit of knowledge requires the free exchange of ideas, however unpopular, among all members of the academic community;

Whereas all recent experience shows that confrontation tactics, whether involving sit-ins or other coercive devices, invariably subvert the very nature and purpose of a university by substituting coercion by a militant minority for orderly academic procedures, by making impossible the rational evolution of the university to meet changing conditions, or by denying legitimate freedom of speech or action to those with whom that militant minority disagrees; and

Whereas confrontation tactics inevitably disrupt the proper activities of the university and therefore waste priceless intelligence which should be contributing to a solution of the world's problems;

Be it resolved, therefore, that:

Sit-ins and other activities by any member of the university community that disrupt or attempt to disrupt the activities of the university must no longer be tolerated at Stanford;

And be it further resolved that:

This board requests that the president, faculty, and students at Stanford continue with the greatest sense of urgency their efforts to achieve means of eliminating such disruptive activities, which strike at the very existence of the university.