

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - In a statement to the Stanford community early Thursday (APRIL 17), President Kenneth S. Pitzer called the demonstration at the Applied Electronics Laboratory "inherently an ugly, sometimes fierce threat" to academic values.

About 500 persons there at 1 a.m. voted overwhelmingly against occupying the nearby space engineering building and against leaving the laboratory. They reaffirmed their intention of not opening classified files in the building, and called a rally in White Plaza for Thursday noon.

The Judicial Council, a student-faculty group, ended deliberations on possible disciplinary measures at 2 a.m. without announcing any outcome. Its suggestions are expected to go to Pitzer Thursday.

The demonstrators have refused to cooperate with the Council, which was formally sanctioned by students and faculty earlier this academic year.

Pitzer said: "Unfortunately, there exists in certain segments of the Stanford community an impression that the demonstrators...are harmlessly focusing attention on an otherwise neglected issue of principle. In fact, the demonstration is inherently an ugly, sometimes fierce threat to and infringement upon the rights of researchers to research, students to study, and teachers to teach."

In hearings conducted by the Council Wednesday afternoon one AEL researcher testified he had received a death threat when he asked a demonstrator to leave his laboratory, in accord with campus rules.

When faculty-staff teams asked demonstrators for their names earlier in the week, a respected faculty member was told he would be bodily attacked if he returned to the laboratory, Pitzer said.

"The guidelines governing research, both within the University and at Stanford Research Institute, are under serious and active study, and appropriate changes are in progress," he noted.

"For my part, I have left no question that I believe the national priorities must be adjusted to the general welfare, and research on means of destruction must yield to research on the instruments of peace.

"These issues are not under debate. The issue at hand is whether Stanford shall live by procedures of judicial due process upon which all constituencies have agreed. My staff and I are committed to the principle that it shall."

Questionnaires will be mailed Thursday to 13,000 students and faculty to solicit their views on University-SRI ties. Wednesday night the demonstrators said "the sweeping reform of campus research that we have asked...has scarcely begun." They called Tuesday's action by the Senate of the Academic Council against secret research "token."

They said they planned to establish their own research review board to "consider, in public, all requests from AEL staff to resume research." The building has been occupied since April 9.

"We ask that all members of the faculty give us their pledge now that Stanford will do away with classified research, research for clear-cut military applications, chemical-biological warfare and counter-insurgency," they said. Stanford Research Administrator Earl Cilley has denied that studies in the last two fields are conducted on campus.

Under policy guidelines established by the faculty two years ago, the number of classified contracts has been reduced from 20 to 13, several of which are regarded as classified for relatively minor reasons. Pitzer has repeatedly stated his personal opposition to secret research on campus.

More than \$2 million in classified research is done at AEL, comprising the great preponderance of such work on campus. While reports to sponsoring agencies are sometimes classified, scientific findings are published in technical journals with "rare and minor" exceptions, according to Prof. William Baxter of the Law School, who heads the research policy committee.

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