



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

TRESIDDER MEMORIAL UNION

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

October 27, 1971

Mr. Ralph Keller
Director, Student Placement Service
Stanford University

Mr. Keller:

We are deeply distressed at the news that you have scheduled two United States Military services and eight major military contractors to recruit at the Placement Center next week. We are distressed not merely because of the intimate involvement of these organizations with the making of war, but also because this type of recruiting was specifically prohibited in the student referendum passed in last Spring's student body elections.

In those elections, students voted to "change the present policy on military and corporate recruiting" by prohibiting "the use of Stanford lands for military service recruiting" (1947 votes in favor, 1496 opposed) and by prohibiting "the use of Stanford land by corporations that are directly producing material and research for the military" (1758 votes in favor, 1596 opposed).

We regard the following interviews scheduled for the week of November 1 at the Placement Center as a violation of the spirit and letter of this referendum: Hughes Research Labs, McDonnell-Douglas, Naval Civil Engineering Lab, Litton Industries, U.S. Air Force, General Motors Research Labs, Honeywell, TRW Systems Group, Asiatic Petroleum Corp., and Texas Instruments Inc.

While the student referendum called for a body of three student senators, three faculty senators, and three staff members elected by the staff to determine which corporations are subject to the language of the prohibition, and while that body does not yet exist, it still seems to us wrong that any military contractor should be allowed to recruit at the Placement Center until this body has been created and has ruled on whether or not the company in question is "directly producing material and research for the military."

The issue goes far beyond the problem of military recruiting. The issue, it seems to us, is whether students are able to determine in an official referendum how their own facilities, at the very least, may be used. The Placement Center is a student facility, administered as a service to students. We expect that as the administrator of this student service you will be an advocate within the administration for student interests. This would entail the time, energy, and interest necessary to help form workable policy from the major premises set by your constituency.

This whole affair strikes us as another case of the contempt and disdain with which administrators at this University so often regard any vote of the student body that happens to conflict with their pre-determined notions about what should be done. It is a deep affront to the large portion of the student body that has sought to change University policy with ballots. It is a denial of due process, and we are angered by it deeply.

However, we do not feel that the situation is irretrievable. As the legal representatives of the student body that passed the referendum, we ask that you now act to implement the policy of that referendum. Specifically, we ask that you cancel the interviews for the above mentioned corporations and services next week, and inform them that they are welcome to come on this campus, at the invitation of the ASSU or any other group, to discuss their policies and contracts, but that they may not come here to conduct their business, which is recruiting.

We ask also that you, as the administrator of this student service, seek to institutionalize the policy set last Spring by helping to set up the committee provided for in the referendum which will determine which corporations may recruit at the Placement Center.

If you seek to administer the Student Placement Service under the policy adopted by the students last Spring, we pledge to you our support as the elected representatives of the student body. We would expect that there would be enthusiastic support for you among members of the community as well.

We feel that there is a need to have within the administration advocates for the student position on issues. We feel it especially critical that administrators with responsibility for student services be willing to act as advocates for the position of the student body, especially when it is officially expressed. If you feel that you cannot do this, we urge you to publicly inform the student body so that it may decide whether it wishes to support an administrator who will not support its own officially stated policy.

We look forward to meeting with you on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Diamond

Diane Fields

Ann Kimball

Doug McHenry

ASSU Council of Presidents

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LJD/ljd

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