

October 25, 1967

Stanford University
Office of the President


Dear President Sterling,

We respectfully request that the Central Intelligence Agency, and war-oriented corporations generally be denied use of Stanford University facilities for the purposes of propagandizing, recruitment, and so-called defense activities. We feel that the activities of these groups are anti-social in the extreme, that they present a clear danger to society, and that their interests run counter to those of an educational institution. The Central Intelligence Agency in particular poses a threat to academic freedom, political freedom and world peace. Its presence on university campuses is usually directed towards spying on students and faculty members, and towards intimidation of dissenters. Its activities are characteristic of a police-state, and antithetical to the structure and purposes of the university.

This week, the Central Intelligence Agency is holding job interviews in the Placement Service, itself located in a building which was only this year taken away from the academic sector. We ask that those interviews cease, that the Central Intelligence Agency be requested to absent itself in future from this campus, and that in general war-related and police-state-oriented organizations be strongly discouraged from using Stanford University as a staging area.

We appreciate your concern over this matter, and invite a reply.

Love,


Richard S. Bogart

for

Students for a
Democratic
Society

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

October 30, 1967

Mr. Richard S. Bogart
Students for a Democratic Society
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Mr. Bogart:

In President Sterling's absence from the campus I am responding to your letter of October 25.

You request "that the Central Intelligence Agency, and war-oriented corporations generally be denied use of Stanford University facilities for the purposes of propagandizing, recruitment, and so-called defense activities."

I can think of nothing more antithetical to the values that a university seeks to cherish than to deny access to any person or group because of disagreement with their views. How would you react to a request by those who strongly differ with the goals of your own organization that it be banned from the campus?

The more divisive the issues in our society, the greater are the pressures upon universities to limit freedom of access to the campus, freedom of speech on the campus, and in the end freedom of thought itself, the very heart of the intellectual endeavor. I can assure you that Stanford is not going into the business of thought control, on your behalf or anyone else's.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Lyman
Vice President and Provost

COPY

Bob Beyers ←

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

November 1, 1967

To the Stanford Daily:

In Mr. Hargrove's excellent news story regarding the issue of C.I.A. recruiting and the plans for a sit-in at Encina, there is one erroneous statement which I should like to correct. It is that "no company or government agency is allowed to see this file /i.e. the Placement Office dossier/ without the student's permission or a subpoena." That statement would be true of the student records kept by the University (the "confidential records" referred to earlier in the story), but not of the Placement dossiers. Past practice has been to make these Placement dossiers available to employers at the discretion of the Placement Office Director, where the employer was similar to one to whom the student had authorized release of the dossier. For example, if a student expressed an interest in General Motors, and Ford expressed interest in that student, his file (made up of his own contributions plus letters of recommendation from people of his own choosing) would be made available to Ford as well.

There has never been an instance of a student complaint to Mr. Keller growing out of this practice, but in order to avert any possibility of misunderstanding I have directed that the student's permission be requested henceforth. It remains true that faculty members can request that Placement forward a student's file to a potential employer and the Placement Office will do so. To prohibit this would prejudice many students' chances to get jobs--particularly academic jobs--that suit their talents.

Two points ought to be re-emphasized. First, there is no relation whatsoever between these Placement dossiers and the confidential records of a student's Stanford career, which are never made available to outsiders without the student's explicit permission, except after subpoena, and even then only with warning to the student so that he has the opportunity of contesting that subpoena in the courts. Second, student use of the Placement Office is, of course, wholly voluntary. It would be unfortunate if anyone listening to yesterday's speeches in White Memorial Plaza derived from what was said there the impression that he was putting his career in jeopardy, or risking exposure of his Stanford records, by taking advantage of the service offered by Mr. Keller and his staff, for such is emphatically not the case.

Richard W. Lyman
Vice President and Provost