

April 13, 1969

4/13
Schw

FROM: Steering Committee of the Academic Council, Stanford University
TO: Members of the April Third Movement and Other Concerned Persons
SUBJECT: Request of April 11 Addressed to the Chairman of the Senate

1. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

SRI activities are not controlled by the Academic Council or its Senate. On April 10, the Senate urgently requested that the Board of Trustees report fully to the Stanford community the results of its discussions concerning SRI-University relations by mid-May. It also asked that as many Trustees as possible attend the open hearings they have planned on campus during April on this subject.

It further instructed the Steering Committee to schedule a special meeting of the Senate within a week (the reported "two days" limit was erroneous) of the issuance of the report of the ad hoc committee on SRI. Whether this meeting can be fully productive will depend on conditions prevailing on campus when it is held.

These actions express our conviction that University-SRI relations must be reviewed and readjusted, at least in principle, during this academic quarter.

2. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON THE STANFORD CAMPUS.

We are assured that no work characterized as chemical-warfare, biological-warfare, or radiological-warfare research is being done on this campus, and we pledge our efforts that such work will never be undertaken.

Much progress has been made, especially during the past two years, to reduce the classified and war-related research on campus.

The Senate on April 10 reaffirmed its responsibilities for policies controlling research on the campus and declared its intent to reexamine these policies this spring.

The Committee on Research Policy on April 9, responding to a request from President Pitzer, scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, April 15, to reconsider research guidelines. We are asking this committee to hold open hearings on Monday, April 14.

3. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE SENATE.

In our judgment, the Senate will find its attention focused on procedural rather than substantive issues as long as a major campus disruption continues. Both the SRI issue and the matter of on-campus research require deliberate attention without procedural delays. We fear that, should the sit-in continue, our special Senate meeting about SRI relations will bog down in procedural matters. We are discouraged from calling another special meeting about on-campus research while campus conditions make substantive decision-making only marginally possible.

We realize that many persons involved in the disruption wish to hasten decisions on important matters, and we ask that the sit-in end so these matters can be dealt with effectively.

4. MORAL CONCERNS.

We believe that moral concern over national priorities pervades the membership of every Stanford constituency. For our part, using words now well known on this campus, we affirm that "our national priorities are wrong---that we spend too much on the military, on means to kill people, and not enough on constructive things, on helping ordinary people to live".

We believe we share with you the deep conviction that this community's efforts should be directed entirely toward the causes of peace and human welfare.