

Forum Audience Hears Trustees: Stanford A Cooperative Venture

Five members of the Board of Trustees last week joined in an unprecedented forum with all segments of the Stanford community and described the University as a cooperative venture in which administration, faculty, trustees, and "more and more" students participate.

The two hour session was arranged by student members of the University Advisory Committee, a joint student-faculty-trustee group. The forum followed the regular March meeting of the trustees.

Questions were invited from the floor, and many related to the University's relationship with the Stanford Research Institute, a matter now being studied by an ad hoc student-faculty committee on Stanford-SRI relations. Other heavily debated topics centered on the Vietnam War, the Third World Liberation Front, and University decision-making policies.

1,000 Attend Session

Nearly 1,000 persons attended the discussion, participated in by Trustee Board Chairman W. Parmer Fuller III, and Trustees Mrs. Allan E. Charles, Charles E. Ducommun, Ben. C. Duniway, and William R. Hewlett.

In a heavily applauded opening statement, Paul Rupert, a 1967 Stanford graduate and member of the United Campus Christian Ministry, declared that "ghettos will burn again, guerilla strength will grow, and your campus will be torn apart" unless trustees "lay down your weapons" and share decision-making power.

"In the face of growing militarization, revolutionaries will study and steal your weaponry, and you will have lost your chance," he added. "If you will not (lay down your weapons) then please resign and let the community replace you with men who will lead by the strength of their vision and not by their power."

Trustee Fuller flatly rejected "the allegation that only students have a concern for humanity." The charge that the Board of Trustees "exercises its discretion in its own economic interest is just plain hogwash," he added.

Trustee Ducommun called Rupert's demand "completely unreasonable . . . if you want your country properly protected, protect your freedom of expression."

Trustee Duniway said there is "an enormous differential between the theoretical and actual power of the trustees. The board does not set curriculum. If it attempted to do so, it could have a faculty revolution on its hands. If some people told us we had enormous power, we might be tempted to exercise it. I'm not sure that would be good for the University.

"The University is not a place that ought to be run like an army . . . This is a cooperative venture between faculty, administration and trustees, with more and more participation by students. I hope that trend will be continued."

Asked why there are no Third World representatives on

the board, Fuller said: "Maybe there should be. Just give us time. Personally, I think it should not be an all-white board." He indicated the trustees are considering enlarging their present membership of 23. So far, trustees have not actively sought a minority group member, Fuller said.

Following repeated questions to several board members about defense-related University research and corporate production, Trustee Hewlett said: "You've asked about our morals. Each person has to live with himself. . . ."

"But the Vietnamese have to live with you," student panelist Jeanne Friedman interjected.

"Will you shut up?" Hewlett snapped. "I approach this job with a clear conscience . . . If we approach (problems) with good will, we can make progress. I respect many people in Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) who are making a conscientious effort to make progress . . . I feel very strongly they are an important element of the community.

"I would not ask that they be turned away from the University, and in the same manner it is not fair to suggest the trustees leave because of their corporate ties or other associations."

The panel was moderated by Doron Weinberg, teaching fellow in the Law School who served as informal counsel for students accused of disrupting the January trustee meeting. He and student panelists were chosen by student members of the University Advisory Committee. This group includes five students, five faculty, and five trustees, chosen by their respective groups, with President Kenneth S. Pitzer as chairman. The trustee panelists were drawn from this group, with Hewlett substituting for Trustee Robert M. Brown.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTIONS

Actions taken by the Board of Trustees at its March 11, 1969 meeting:

1. Approved a 1969-70 operating budget with estimated expenditures of \$51,181,000, and estimated income of \$50,551,000. The budgeted expenditures, as approved, conform with the levels established when the 1969-70 budget goals were approved by the Trustees in November.

The Trustees were informed that a number of specific budgets had been cut back in an effort to reduce certain expenditures considered not to be of highest priority in the light of stringent financial considerations, and that—through establishment of modest administrative reserves—the President and his staff are trying to preserve some flexibility to deal with critical situations resulting from these cutbacks.

Because of an increase in estimated endowment income beyond earlier expectations, the new budget as approved anticipates a deficit of approximately \$380,000 instead of one on the order of \$715,000, as seemed likely in November.

2. Approved the program and site of a proposed Education Research and Development Center in Teaching, and authorized the School of Education to proceed with an application for funding to the U.S. Office of Education. The Trustees also approved a control budget of \$5,800,000 for the project.

3. Approved plans to remodel the west wing and second floor of Encina commons for general office space to be used initially for the Operations Research Department of the School of Engineering. A total project budget of \$156,350 was authorized.

4. Approved a proposal for a feasibility study to develop a