
CAMPUS REPORT

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Senate Urges Further Study and Decision by Fall on SRI

The Board of Trustees has been urged to work with the Stanford Research Institute professional staff "toward the elimination of any projects dealing directly with the development of weapons of biological or chemical warfare" and to make no final decision or commitment on the future of SRI until Fall Quarter.

The action was taken by voice vote, without dissent, at a special meeting of the Senate last Friday.

Although the final decision on the disposition of SRI and the University relationship will not come before next Fall, the Senate urged "at least a tentative or preliminary decision . . . as promptly as possible after consultation with the professional staff at SRI."

The Senate action came at the end of two special sessions called to consider SRI relations and was based on a series of straw votes taken April 29.

The session also followed an April 30 Board of Trustees meeting in the J. Henry Meyer Memorial Library in which

five trustees heard students, faculty, and SRI officials discuss the relationship of the University and the research facility.

Proposals were forwarded that SRI should be sold for the maximum possible value, that it be dissolved, and that it be redirected toward entirely civilian goals.

Professor Kenneth E. Scott, law, who headed a faculty-student ad hoc committee that had studied the University-SRI question since last Fall, said Stanford should not operate any substantial business enterprise that is not essential to its own purposes.

The majority of the committee recommended divestiture from the University in its report that was submitted April 15. (See *Campus Report* special edition, April 15.)

At the Meyer Library hearing, Professor Wolfgang Panofsky, director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, suggested that a summer-long study should lead either to "a clearly feasible plan for constructive dedication of SRI to

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A special meeting of the Senate was held on May 2, 1969, for the purpose of considering the relationship between the University and the Stanford Research Institute. Originally slated for May 1, this meeting was rescheduled in order to accommodate the special meeting of the Academic Council on that date.

Based upon a submission by the Steering Committee, as directed by the Senate on April 29, the Senate adopted, on voice votes, the following statement (the first three paragraphs being adopted in a single vote, without dissent, and the final paragraph by divided vote):

The Senate of the Academic Council recognizes that the Report of the Stanford-SRI Study Committee was rendered to the President of the University to assist in the formulation of his recommendations to the Board of Trustees, and that a final decision on this matter does not lie within the jurisdiction of the Senate. Nevertheless, the actions of the Board will have a far-reaching impact on the community, and therefore the Senate believes it has a responsibility to advise the Board on this matter.

The Senate suggests that the President consider recommending to the Board of Trustees further detailed exploration, with professional assistance and with the participation of the SRI professional staff, of a number of alternate possibilities: sale of SRI, participation in the purchase by SRI employees, the feasibility of research limitations as part of the terms of sale, and the feasibility of other possible alternatives. The Senate further believes it desirable that at least a tentative or preliminary decision be reached as promptly as possible after consultation with the professional staff of SRI. However, the Senate recognizes the complexity of the issues as well as the level of concern in the community and urges that the results of the further detailed exploration referred to above be reported in the Fall Quarter 1969 and that no final decision or commitment to action be made until then.

In the event that ties between Stanford and SRI continue, the Senate believes that determination of research policy at SRI should involve active participation of the research personnel of the Institute. Establishment of procedures to this end at SRI would greatly facilitate development of an appropriate relationship between Stanford and SRI and of new research policies at the Institute. The Senate stands ready to form, in cooperation with elected representatives of the professional research personnel at SRI, a conference committee to consider research objectives and policies at both institutions.

The Senate urges the Board of Trustees to work with SRI's professional staff toward the elimination of any projects dealing directly with the development of weapons of biological or chemical warfare at SRI.

In addition, reports were received regarding the following matters:

A. The following resolution, adopted by the Academic Council at a special meeting on May 1, 1969:

Resolved:

1. That we, as a body, support the action which was taken this morning by the President, by the Faculty Advisory Committee, and by Provost Lyman;

2. That we commend the Senate for its energy to date in formulating recommendations to the Board of Trustees with respect to the entire problem of SRI, and

3. That we urge in addition all possible deliberate haste.

B. The results of the referendum which, on April 4, the Academic Council ordered on the Senate action on ROTC as follows:

1. The number of ballots cast for Approval of the Senate Action of February 13, 1969 on ROTC was 403.

2. The number of ballots cast for Disapproval of the Senate

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civilian goals . . . (or) to separate from the University."

Charles Anderson, SRI president, sharply attacked the "arrogant suggestion that a small group that does not represent a majority viewpoint should rule on the moral acceptability of research."

The April 30 session was marked by a walkout of 25 student supporters of the April 3rd Movement. It came at the end of an hour-and-a-half of testimony by students.

They left the library after trustees declined to answer questions from student witnesses at the hearing. Ground rules for the session had made it clear that trustees were interested in obtaining facts and opinions rather than disclosing their own personal views in advance of any board decisions.

The walkout also preceded by about eight hours the sit-in at Encina Hall, a tactic decided upon after a series of April 3rd meetings that afternoon and evening. (See story on page 2.)

In its meeting on SRI last Friday, the Senate stated it stands ready to form, in cooperation with elected representatives of the professional research personnel at SRI, a conference committee to consider research objectives and policies at both institutions.

SRI is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Stanford and its Board of Directors is appointed by the University trustees.