

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - About 300 persons backing the "Off ROTC" movement at Stanford Thursday night (APRIL 9) endorsed 11 new demands, ranging from joint student-faculty control of curriculum to granting all employee wage demands and taking control of the University from the Board of Trustees.

Proposals to guarantee full financial aid to students throughout their college years, as needed, to end Stanford's involvement with the U.S. government, and to eliminate the profit motive were rejected.

The protest group, which numbered about 200 at the start of demonstrations nine days ago, is comprised mainly of Stanford students but includes several former students, non-students, and high schoolers.

After quickly making "Off ROTC" the central demand, the protesters promptly and decisively approved demands 1) that substitute scholarship funds be provided ROTC cadets, as needed; 2) that ROTC workers be guaranteed other University jobs; and 3) that the University provide legal defense funds for any students challenging the punitive clauses in individual ROTC contracts. Through these clauses, which subject students who wilfully break their contracts to induction, "the University participates in slavery," one critic observed.

About 150 participated in decisions to back the demands with tactics ranging from a student referendum against ROTC to "lunch with the Board of Trustees," who are scheduled to meet on campus Tuesday (APRIL 14). About 30 voted in favor of appearing nude at an ROTC drill, reportedly scheduled Monday afternoon. This was left to individual option.

The group also voted to participate in a candlelight parade from White Plaza to Memorial Church Monday night. The march has been planned by moderate student leaders seeking to show opposition both to violence and to ROTC. "Let's join them, and make them look like they're joining us," one speaker suggested to the crowd, which filled both the large and small lounges of Tresidder Memorial Union.

Other tactics approved included "a rock music educational program" seeking broader student support for the protest prior to the trustees meeting and an "open mike" or other public forum for trustees, administrators, faculty, and students Tuesday night. These would precede the student referendum on ROTC, planned Wednesday and Thursday, which several speakers criticized as "meaningless."

The group postponed any decision on whether to take a building "in a non-disruptive manner" if the movement failed to achieve its central objective by late next week. Encina Hall and the Old Student Union were mentioned as targets.

Early in the three-hour session, the group applauded a proposed editorial reply to San Francisco radio station KCBS stating that the movement "did not attack ROTC until it became clear that only through destruction could policy be changed." They also applauded a report that students at Berkeley planned to get rid of the ROTC building by whatever means necessary and that opposition to ROTC was growing at both Foothill College and San Jose State.

Thomas Forstenzer, former speaker of the Stanford Student Legislature, said the University "is the private property of the Board of Trustees" with "a puppet administration and a puppet faculty." "They have no right to run this place; that's the final end of this movement," he said. "When the Board of Trustees comes here, they're being judged... Legitimate authority over this property... doesn't belong to them; it belongs to us."

Other demands approved included the right to organize unions; a ban on recruiting by the military, FBI and CIA; a ban on counter-insurgency research; general amnesty "for all people involved in the struggle against ROTC;" and no loss of scholarships because of political activity, on or off campus.

Following an hour's discussion, most demands were approved or rejected overwhelmingly in a 25-minute long series of straw votes. Toward the end, one speaker cautioned the group not to behave "like kids in a candy store---be serious." Brief debate ensued on two closely divided topics: a guarantee of financial aid for all students, as needed (defeated) and granting of "all workers wage demands" (passed).

Discussing tactics, Forstenzer said the Committee on Undergraduate Studies, which will decide whether Army ROTC courses qualify for credit, should not be petitioned but made "a target for attack." Protesters should "take up office hours" in discussion with CUS members and "if necessary" trail them across campus with signs, he added. (The group rejected petitioning CUS on ROTC.) "You're sitting on one of the buttons of American imperialism... you have to push it," he suggested. Proposing an April 16 building takeover, he said: "They can continue their regular business; we'll just be there." Art Busse said "everyone here could vote to back ROTC and he "still would not regard that as legitimate." The group voted to set up an anti-military studies center and to ask the academic secretary to conduct a mail ballot of students on ROTC.