

CONFIDENTIAL

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Office of the President

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL -- 21 January 1969

Present: Messrs. Johnson, Alberty, Anderson, Bishop, Bisplinghoff,
Cusick, Fulmer, Kispert, Locke, Pounds, Rosenblith,
Ruina, Simonides, Sizer, Stoddard, Wadleigh,
Wiesner, and Wynne

Absent: Messrs. Floe and Snyder

I. Plans for March 4 Meetings

The President and Provost reported on plans of a faculty and student group to send out a mailing next week which would call on colleagues, faculty and students to stop research for a day's long discussion on March 4, aimed at "an examination of the social responsibility of scientists."

There is considerable confusion as to the organization for this event and as to exactly who the sponsors of the planned activity are and to what extent they share in the various objectives that have been stated. A faculty sponsoring group, organized as the Union of Concerned Scientists, has endorsed the statement which was drafted by some of the group. The President read the statement and the list of sponsors. It was indicated by several members of the Council that several of the sponsors listed had not had an opportunity to approve the draft of the statement and would, in fact, object to its calling for a work stoppage on March 4, although all of them were probably in favor of public discussion of the issues of the use of science in governmental and defense research.

[Subsequent to the Council meeting, the President, Provost, and Chairman of the Faculty met with the Executive Committee of the Union of Concerned Scientists and obtained the document which is attached here for the record. It became clear in subsequent discussions with this group that there was considerable confusion among the listed sponsors of the draft. A press release that was drafted by some of the sponsors was released to the Boston Globe

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resulting in an article which appeared in the Friday morning (24 January) edition. There were further discussions among faculty members, including the sponsors of the mailing and members of the Academic Council. It was agreed that the explicit mention of M. I. T. on the letterhead of the proposed mailing would be deleted, and it appeared that further changes in the draft might be made before its mailing.]

II. Graduate Student Quotas

Dean Sizer circulated a report indicating the comparison between graduate student registration (fifth-week head count) and the established quota for each of the Institute's departments. This year's quota of 3,342 was set on the basis of last year's registration. This year, total registration for all of the Schools was 68 below quota, at 3,274. Further reduction is expected because of the effects of the draft which may remove some of the currently registered students from attendance in the second semester.

There was discussion of considering a more generous margin of over admissions for next year, on the assumption that more of the admitted students would not be able to register because of the draft. Foreign population has gone up, but it is watched very closely, as it is the Institute's policy not to allow foreign registration to cover the gap of U.S. students who are drafted, so as not to destroy the balance in the long run.

The Academic Council approved requests for increases of quotas in two departments, Political Science (4, from 70 to 74), and the Department of City Planning (20, from 70 to 90). Increase in the number of students who want to go into urban studies was given as the primary reason in the case of both departmental requests. Dean Sizer also circulated to the Council a departmental breakdown of the 92 cases of students who are enrolled in a combined S. B. -S. M. degree program.

III. Use of Institute Mail

After some discussion, the Academic Council felt that it was difficult to deny the use of Institute mail to groups, such as the Zigmond Defense Committee, which included many faculty members, even if these mailings represented solicitations for funds, a practice which has been customarily denied to private groups, outside of the United Fund and the Red Cross Blood Drive.

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The President asked Mr. Kispert to draft a statement to update and make as explicit as possible Institute policy on the use of interdepartmental mail service.

IV. Miscellaneous Items

1. Dean Bishop reported on a forthcoming meeting with members from several departments of the School's faculty on the issue of the establishment of social inquiry as a major within the Department of Humanities or the School.
2. Dean Bishop also reported on continuing discussions with Assistant Professors in the Department of Humanities regarding the salaries and academic load of Assistant Professors.
3. The Council approved Dean Wadleigh's request that the number of entering students be held to 175 male freshmen, and as many girls as we can admit. Last year it was felt that this number could be exceeded (but was not) on the grounds of encouraging over enrollment because of expected attrition to the draft.
4. Dean Wadleigh asked for a special meeting of the Academic Council on February 11 for one hour in order to consider Dormitory Council requests to decentralize parietal rules, and a request from women students to permit sophomores and juniors who have parental permission to live off campus. Several other groups are considering these requests, including the House Masters' group and the faculty Committee on Student Environment. This special meeting of the Council will be at 11:00 a. m. on Tuesday, February 11, prior to the Administrative Council, which meets at 12:15 p. m.
5. Mr. Fulmer circulated the six-month report on gifts to the Institute.
6. Professor Rosenblith reported briefly on the plans and progress to open the remaining Faculty Meetings in the spring semester to participation by non-Faculty members, according to the provisions set by the special task force proposal which was voted in by the Faculty at the January meeting.

*Correction
will be coming
I called Mary*

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7. Dean Alberty reported that the limit of students who would be allowed to cross-register for classes at M.I.T. and Wellesley would be increased from eighty to one hundred. This limit was arrived at by the available dormitory space for Wellesley girls which would be required since the M.I.T. term runs a week beyond the termination of the Wellesley spring term.

C. B. Simonides
27 January 1969
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