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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

Vol. IV No. 12

March 20, 1969

Chancellor's Office

Statement on placement and demonstrations, which is proposed as the basis for discussion by the Faculty Senate and the Student Council -- or by the University Committee on Student Affairs acting for both -- and members of the administration. It will serve as interim policy at UMass/Boston pending consensus on this statement or on other statements already in the works.

The Placement Office of the University of Massachusetts/Boston helps students, especially graduating seniors, to make contact with prospective employers from government, business and industry, social and educational agencies both public and private. Within the limits set by time and by available space, it deals equally with agencies requesting its help in consulting with students; in accordance with a specific recommendation of the Faculty Senate on November 2, 1967, it makes no arrangements for military recruitment "except through ordinary placement service procedures."

This policy of "open recruitment" is not at the core of the educational job of the university. In its standing it is closer to our policy on intercollegiate athletics than to our policy on free speech or on academic freedom -- a decision on the accidental rather than on the essentials of education. The university could, through its customary process of making decisions, eliminate this service to students entirely. In fact, however, the policy at present is "open recruitment," and this policy now guides the university's conduct.

The policy draws dissent, especially in specific cases -- military recruiters, and interviewers from companies that are closely identified with the war in Vietnam. The university accepts, even applauds dissent, and it encourages open expression of it as long as the university is left free to do its customary job and as long as all individuals within the university remain free from restraint and coercion that would interfere with their rights and dignity. These standards apply not only to protests against the University's policy on placement, but to protests against other policies of the university as well.

The most cursory glance at troubled colleges and universities near and far suggests that UMass/Boston will have its day of troubles too. Dissent from many aspects of American society is in the air, and the intensity of the feeling behind much of it may tempt some in the university to protest in ways that go beyond what is fair to the community and to many outside the dissenting group. We need to make clear to ourselves, at a moment when we are free from crisis, what steps would guide us if the crisis comes. So in consultation within our walls, we arrive at the following points:

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1. We reaffirm our tolerance of, indeed welcome to, dissent that criticizes in the open forum of the university.

2. We acknowledge that members of this community may make public show of their dissent, even within our buildings,

as long as the demonstration does not create a danger to the physical safety of people (overcrowding on the ground floor of 100 Arlington Street where glass doors are vulnerable and potentially dangerous);

as long as the demonstration does not interfere with the movement of people (blocked exits or entrances, filled elevators);

as long as the demonstration does not prevent members of the community from doing their customary tasks (participating in a class or laboratory, gaining access to a recognized activity of the university like the offices of Mass Media or like the room assigned for placement interviews).

3. We accept as valid that enforcement of these principles at a time when they are being violated should rest on persuasion first and should turn to more serious methods, warning of disciplinary action within the university, then the use of outside force such as the police of the city and of the state, only after persuasion has been tried and has failed.

4. We note how much depends on the representatives of the university who make judgments on the status of the demonstration and on the need for more drastic responses. We urge them to draw continually on the advice of representatives of the Faculty Senate and of the Student Council.

5. We urge all parties to a confrontation, especially those who represent the university, to hold stubbornly to the view that the dispute is an internal one best resolved without involving the polemical force of newspapers and television.

The danger always exists that planning for an incident makes it more likely to occur. We hope, rather, that a clear statement, made while the times are calm, will allow everyone to know in advance the standards under which the university will act.

Francis L. Broderick

February 27, 1969

The following students have withdrawn from the University between February 6, 1969, and April 4, 1969.

NAME	CLASS	NAME	CLASS
Addison, Barbara J.	71	Jones, Andrea F.	73
Amico, Joseph P.	69	Kaplan, Stanley D.	71
Anderson, Kerry P.	72	Keough, Maureen R.	71
Baltin, David N.	73	Kilmer, Lee	72
Barrile, Edward J.	70	King, Walter C.	72
Bradley, Elaine C.	SP	Lake, Brian E.	SP
Brown, Rose-Leah	70	Lay, Kenneth	72
Christie, Barry	73	MacMillan, Shariann	71
Clark, Jean C.	70	Malone, Janice	72
Coughlan, Jeremiah F.	70	McCormick, John L.	71
Dalton, Gloria A.	70	Newman, Stanley A.	69
Devaux, Stephen	70	O'Brien, Mark	70
Donnelly, Brendon J.	71	O'Bryant, Patricia	SP
Driscoll, James P.	72	Pappas, Mary	70
Evangelista, Richard	72	Purdy, William L.	71
Fairbanks, Ralph E.	70	Ridgway, Kevin D.	70
Ferreira, Patricia J.	69	Smiley, Gary A.	70
Flamburis, William	72	Sonenshein, Joel A.	71
Goldsmith, Max	70	Spalding, Mona J.	72
Griffiths, Douglas C.	70	Stetson, Judith S.	71
Hayes, John A. Jr.	70	Sweeney, Stephen M.	71
Hobbs, Linda	71	Tabler, Gerard J.	72
Holmes, William F.	71	Townsend, Richard D.	72
Holtz, Steven H.	71	Zielke, H.W.	70
Hoyt, Barbara	72		