

F A C T S H E E T I I

ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ACTIVITIES DURING THE NATIONWIDE CAMPUS ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

May 25, 1970

A previous fact sheet summarized the first week of responses on University of Minnesota campuses to President Nixon's decision to send U.S. forces into Cambodia. This summary is intended to describe the situation during the two weeks since the first fact sheet was prepared. Activities on University of Minnesota campuses have remained non-violent throughout this two-week period.

1. ALL-UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ACTIONS

--The Senate Committee on Educational Policy held several meetings and open hearings as it considered the status of Reserve Officer Training Programs in the University system. President Moos reported to a group of demonstrators May 19 that the Committee anticipated making recommendations to the May 28 meeting of the All-University Senate, which would then make a policy recommendation to the Board of Regents.

2. TWIN CITIES CAMPUS EVENTS (These events have had wide media coverage)

--The campus has remained in operation, and all buildings have remained open.

--Picketing of campus buildings by student strikers declined steadily after the first week of activity and was eventually discontinued. Strike rallies gradually diminished in size and frequency as strikers and others concentrated on more organized activities on the campus and in the community.

--Class attendance, though difficult to measure accurately, appeared to improve. There were many special seminars and classes devoted to aspects of the war and the nation's foreign policy. Several hundred students enrolled in a special independent study program devoted to the relationship between college campuses and foreign policy.

--Campus days of reflection centered on the May 14 Cap and Gown Day ceremony and a May 21 visit to the campus by economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

--President Moos declared May 18 a day of mourning for two black students killed the previous Friday at Jackson State College in Mississippi and asked student and faculty groups to "readdress the problems facing this nation."

--Student strikers held a ceremony May 14 marking graduation into the "University of Life," and a "Peace College" was established to provide seminars, classes, and discussions related to the anti-war movement. These activities are continuing.

--Under guidelines established by the Twin Cities Assembly May 7, groups of students organized to carry on canvassing and anti-war discussions in the metropolitan area. These activities are continuing.

--On the recommendation of the Senate Consultative Committee, the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Academic Standing and Relations developed grading options for students who did not wish to continue their regular classwork. Faculty members were asked to begin making arrangements with their students on the basis of the options. No reports are yet available on the number of students who are seeking these options, but the number appears to be sizeable. Reports are expected to show considerable variation among colleges and departments, parallel to the patterns of early participation in the student strike. Grievance procedures for students who feel they are being treated unfairly were also established.

--Crowds estimated at 3,000 to 5,000 attended speeches by John Kenneth Galbraith May 20 and Senator Eugene McCarthy May 21. A crowd estimated at 2,000 heard a speech by David Dellinger May 22.

TWIN CITIES CAMPUS (continued)

- A "Footbridge Festival" May 22 began with the Dellinger speech and continued throughout the day and Friday night at Coffman Memorial Union, with speakers, music, and other activities sponsored by the Union Board of Governors and the Ad Hoc Strike Committee.
- A group of 40 to 50 anti-ROTC protesters, made up of students and non-students, temporarily barred access to the Armory building Tuesday afternoon, May 19. When they returned to the Armory Wednesday morning, they were declared to be in violation of the University's policy on disruption of University activities and were moved away from the building by a force of about 25 University policemen supported by an equal number of Minneapolis policemen. Two persons were arrested. President Moos made a statement expressing his regret at the necessity of using police assistance, explaining that noise and distraction outside the building caused the cancellation or moving of eight Communications classes, and interfered with ROTC classes and other activities inside the building. He said it was and would be his intention to keep the campus open and peaceful. The protesters returned both Thursday and Friday for brief demonstrations which were judged not to constitute disruptions.
- Presence of students and other strikers in the Campus Club located on the fourth floor of Coffman Memorial Union continued through the week of May 11 but ended the week of May 18. Minor damage was reported during the week of May 8, first week of the strike. During the two-week period, several activities scheduled for Coffman Memorial Union were cancelled because availability of space could not be guaranteed. Scheduled activities in the Union were returning to normal during the week ending May 22, according to the office of Vice President Cashman. An undetermined number of persons are remaining in the building during the night, most of them to carry on publishing and planning related to the activities of the Ad Hoc Strike Committee.
- Results of a faculty referendum supported ten of the 12 May 7 resolutions of the Twin Cities Assembly, rejecting by narrow margins proposals to grade students on work completed prior to May 4 and to allow opportunities for students to devote their effort for the remainder of Spring Quarter to "seeking a solution to this national crisis." Results of a student referendum on the resolutions are not yet available; further Assembly action awaits the determination of whether there is consensus on any of the resolutions among the faculty and student constituencies.
- A group calling itself the Minnesota Majority organized to protect the rights of students who wished to pursue regular studies during the remainder of the quarter.

3. DULUTH CAMPUS

- The campus has remained in operation, without incident. A small demonstration accompanied the annual ROTC review.
- The Faculty Assembly adopted grading options similar to those adopted on the Twin Cities campus, with minor revisions to adjust to the campus situation. A small percentage of the student body is seeking the options.
- A faculty-student group organized a city-wide campaign to seek support of the McGovern-Hatfield amendment limiting funds for the Cambodia effort.
- There has been an increase in draft information activities.
- Class attendance continues to be normal.
- There have been no special observances on the campus.

4. MORRIS CAMPUS

- The campus has remained in operation, without incident.
- The Campus Assembly adopted grading options and grievance procedures similar to those adopted on the Twin Cities campus. No information is yet available on the number of students seeking the options.
- Students and faculty organized an open meeting on the campus to seek support for the McGovern-Hatfield amendment, with a number of persons from the Morris community attending.

MORRIS CAMPUS (continued)

- The Campus Assembly paid a silent tribute to the two black students killed at Jackson State College in Mississippi.
- Class attendance continues to be normal.

5. CROOKSTON CAMPUS

- The campus has remained in operation, without incident.
- Class attendance continues to be normal. No grading options have been sought or established.
- At an Open Forum meeting May 22, a group of students and faculty, ranging in size from 30 to 80 during the session, discussed the Cambodian situation.