

F A C T S H E E T

ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ACTIVITIES DURING THE NATIONWIDE STUDENT STRIKE

May 11, 1970

President Nixon's decision to send U.S. forces into Cambodia has brought intense responses on many of the nation's college and university campuses during the past week. Some of the responses have been violent; on many campuses the Cambodia decision has united activist students and student groups in an effort to close down the ordinary activities as a symbol of their dissatisfaction. Nationwide, the week of May 4-9 began with reaction to the deaths of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, and ended with mass demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and many state capitals (including St. Paul). More than 200 college campuses have been closed, some of them for the remainder of the current academic year. Action on a statewide basis was taken by the governor of California. Police and National Guard forces have been called on to some campuses and are standing by at others. At the University's Twin Cities campus, the effort has taken the form of a student strike, as it has in many other places. The brief summary which follows is an attempt to describe the present situation on the campuses of the University of Minnesota, by reporting briefly on the activities of the past week.

1. ALL-UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ACTIONS

- ==As strike activities began, President Moos issued an appeal for non-violence and Vice President Shepherd issued a statement reiterating University policy concerning the responsibility of faculty members to provide instruction for their students.
- ==On Tuesday after consultation with faculty leadership and the Chairman of the Board of Regents, President Moos asked the Twin Cities Assembly (made up of elected faculty and student members) to establish Friday as a day of reflection on the events in Southeast Asia and the purposes of the University. He invited the heads of the coordinate campuses to make appropriate recommendations to their campus governing groups.
- ==On Thursday, President Moos was called to Washington with seven other university presidents to consult with President Nixon about events on the nation's campuses and the concerns of students.
- ==On Thursday, the Department of Civil Service Personnel instructed supervisors to schedule participation of Civil Service employees in the day of reflection, if it was approved, "in such a way as to maintain essential department services," and authorized approval of the use of vacation leave or leaves of absence without pay for employees who wished to be absent for the entire day Friday, providing essential services could be maintained.
- ==On Friday, the Board of Regents congratulated President Moos "and his associates on their efforts to "keep peace and intelligent purpose highlighted at this University," welcomed the role President Moos has been asked to play in national councils, and commended University of Minnesota students for their responsible behavior during the crisis.

2. TWIN CITIES CAMPUS EVENTS (Activities have been widely and accurately reported in the media)

- ==The week's activities were coordinated by a coalition of campus groups including both students and faculty.
- ==The campus has remained in operation, and all buildings have been open.

TWIN CITIES CAMPUS (continued)

- ==There has been no violence or destruction of property.
- ==No students have been arrested on the campus, but students and others have been arrested at the site of demolition of a building in Dinkytown and at the location of the Red Barn restaurant on Oak Street, both near the Minneapolis campus area.
- ==Rallies of several thousand students have occurred daily on the Minneapolis area of the campus.
- ==Class attendance overall was estimated to be down about 10% on Tuesday, increasing to about 15% overall by Thursday. Attendance in St. Paul remained near normal, as it did in several colleges in Minneapolis. Hardest hit were classes of the College of Liberal Arts, where attendance was estimated to be down about one-fourth on Tuesday and to be down more than one-half on Thursday. Estimates are very difficult to make, but approximately 6,000 to 7,000 students were probably staying away from classes by Thursday.
- ==Some individual faculty members and several departments and other groups of faculty members supported the purposes of the strike, and it became a subject of discussion in many classes. Cancellation of classes by faculty members occurred, but was not widespread.
- ==Attempts were made to organize Civil Service workers to leave their assignments during the strike. Few did so; some Civil Service workers attended one or more of the activities during the day of reflection on Friday.
- ==A committee of students, faculty, and administrators, supported by private donations, traveled to Washington, D.C., for meetings Thursday morning with members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation.
- ==A statement prepared by President Moos was read to a strike rally Thursday, indicating that the University administration did not intend to take "summary or unjust action against persons who express their conscience this week," but stressing that any person must be prepared to face the consequences of his actions.
- ==On Thursday, the Twin Cities Assembly passed a series of resolutions: establishing Friday as a day to consider the function and direction of the University relative to American society; commending leadership and participants for non-violence; expressing disagreement with the actions of the government in Southeast Asia; opposing any punitive action by the University against strike participants; calling for nonstop consideration of the University's policy on ROTC; urging continued dialog between faculty and students; urging communication by faculty with the national leadership; suggesting that individual faculty members might wish to allow opportunities for students to devote their effort for the remainder of Spring Quarter to "seeking a solution to this national crisis"; suggesting that individual faculty members may wish to grade their students on work completed prior to May 4 for the Spring Quarter; recommending that faculty members continue to meet classes or otherwise provide instruction for students who wish to pursue normal studies; setting one day a week for the remainder of Spring Quarter to "focus campus and community activities toward seeking a solution to the national crisis"; calling for a special Assembly meeting later in the quarter for further consideration of policy; and asking for a referendum of faculty and students on the recommendations in the resolutions.
- ==On Friday, after the day of reflection, a group of students and administrators met with Governor LeVander in regard to the march to the Capitol scheduled for the next day.
- ==On Saturday, the Twin Cities campus was the starting point for the march to the Capitol in St. Paul.
- ==On Sunday, the Steering Committee of the coalition voted to continue the strike. It is expected that some strike-related activities will continue. Some elements of the coalition wish to close the University.
- ==On Monday, President Moos appointed a Student-Faculty committee to organize the weekly observances established by Campus Assembly action Thursday.

3. DULUTH CAMPUS

- ==The campus remained in operation throughout the week. There was no student strike.
- ==The week's activities were coordinated by the Student Association.
- ==An unsuccessful attempt was made by unidentified persons to set fire to the R.O.T.C. building Thursday night.
- ==There have been no other events involving violence or property damage.
- ==Class attendance was near normal, except during a two-hour teach-in on Friday morning, which was part of the campus day of reflection. In that period, some classes remained filled, some had 50% or more absences, and some were dismissed.
- ==Rallies were held on the campus Wednesday and Thursday.
- ==Provost Darland recommended, and the Faculty Council supported, the proposal of President Moos for a day of reflection on Friday.
- ==Participation by Civil Service workers in the events of the day of reflection was limited. There were no absences from work.
- ==About 400 students marched from the campus to the Western Union office in downtown Duluth on Thursday to send individual telegrams to national leaders. Approximately 300 were sent.
- ==Normal activities are expected this week.

4. MORRIS CAMPUS

- ==Classes were cancelled Tuesday afternoon, resumed Wednesday, and continued Thursday with normal attendance. They were cancelled again on Friday for the day of reflection and contemplation. There was no student strike.
- ==The week's activities were coordinated by an ad hoc committee of students, faculty members, and administrators.
- ==There has been no violence or destruction of property.
- ==The Campus Assembly, meeting Tuesday, adopted President Moos's proposal for a day of reflection.
- ==About 300 persons attended a rally on the campus Thursday evening.
- ==Civil Service workers participated in the Campus Assembly meeting, the rally, and the events of the day of reflection.
- ==There were no activities off the campus, but members of the community came onto the campus for some of the activities of the day of reflection.
- ==Activities of the day of reflection on Friday included a teach-in, a memorial service for the students killed at Kent State University, and poetry readings.
- ==Several groups formed during the day of reflection will be organizing future activities, and a previously scheduled program on the war will be held this week.
- ==Normal classroom and other activities are expected this week.

5. CROOKSTON CAMPUS

- ==The campus remained in operation throughout the week.
- ==There was no student strike or rally during the week.
- ==Class attendance was normal throughout the week. No day of reflection was scheduled for Friday.
- ==There were no activities off the campus.
- ==Normal activities are expected to continue on the campus this week.