

CAL STATE COMMUNIQUE

SPECIAL EDITION

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CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, HAYWARD

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The following letter is being distributed as a special edition of the Communique in response to numerous requests from faculty and students.

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Dr. James L. Comer
Chairman
Academic Senate
California State College, Hayward

May 13, 1970

Dear Dr. Comer:

I have received notification of the actions taken by the College Faculty at its meeting of May 11, 1970, and the actions taken by the Academic Senate at its meeting of May 12, 1970. Each of these communications reports unusual actions, taken in unusual circumstances. I am therefore responding in an unusual way.

- I. The first resolution adopted by the College Faculty, that concerning the war in Indo-China, is an expression of the position of the faculty on this issue. Although my personal position is in accord with that expressed by the faculty, the resolution is not a recommendation on College policy and therefore does not require my approval.
- II. The second resolution adopted by the faculty was adopted in haste, without usual committee consideration, and therefore poses some problems of interpretation. Ordinarily, I would return the matter to the faculty with my questions and objections, and ask for reconsideration. Under the circumstances, I am departing from that procedure. I make the following observations:

(a) It appears to me that the first intent of the faculty was to authorize and to encourage individual faculty members to permit students, in appropriate circumstances, to undertake peace activities as a part of regular course work.

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(b) It further appears to me that the intent of the faculty, and of the Academic Senate in the resolutions adopted on May 12, was to make it possible for those students who feel deeply about our involvement in the war to drop out of classes or lessen their academic obligations without academic penalty.

(c) It was further the expressed intent of both the College Faculty at the May 11 meeting, and of the Academic Senate at the May 12 meeting, not to recommend any action that violated state law, Trustee regulations or Trustee policy.

An additional observation concerning the resolutions adopted is necessary. The legality of pass-fail grading, and indeed of any grading system other than the traditional five-letter pattern has been brought into question, and the matter is currently before the Board of Trustees. At its May meeting, the Board is scheduled to consider amendments to the California Administrative Code that would legalize a restricted type of credit-no-credit grading. Any formal revision or modification of existing grading policies must therefore await resolution of this matter by the Board of Trustees.

In view of the above, I have formulated the following statement which I am approving, in the belief that it embodies the intent of the actions taken by the faculty and by the Academic Senate:

STATEMENT CONCERNING CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
AND
GRADING PRACTICES FOR SPRING QUARTER, 1970

The Faculty and Administration of California State College, Hayward, recognize that present conditions require that the College remain open, but in an expanded capacity. Individual faculty members, in fulfilling their professional obligations, will continue to exercise their responsibilities in accordance with accepted standards of professional ethics and the dictates of their own consciences.

(1) In courses where appropriate, students may, with the consent and approval of the instructor, substitute relevant outside activities for other prescribed course work.

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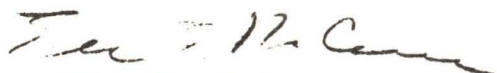
(2) The add-drop period will be extended to June 1, 1970 to permit a student, under currently established procedures,

1. to drop a course without penalty, or
2. to change, within the limits of existing regulations, from a letter-grade basis of enrollment to a pass-no pass basis.

(3) Normal course work will be continued as scheduled to allow those students not wishing to avail themselves of these options to complete the work for which they enrolled.

- III. The resolution of the Faculty concerning investigation of our involvement with ROTC requires no action from me at this time.
- IV. The convocation recommended will have been held by the time this communication is received.
- V. The recommendation of the Academic Senate that the College not supply academic information to draft boards without the student's consent requires no action, since under current policy and practice such information is supplied only on specific request of the student.

Sincerely,



Ellis E. McCune
President

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