

6-7-1972

## Campus Council Resolution on Vietnam 1972

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# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Human Relations Com.

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

To [REDACTED]

Subject:

From [REDACTED]


Date 8-18-72

On May 16 Campus Council voted a somewhat changed composition of Human Relations Commission membership. It now stands as follows:

- 6 students
- 3 faculty
- 2 administrator (app'td by President)
- 3 community

I know that last year our thinking was that status was important in choosing administration representatives. In view of what happened in HRC

last year and some of the items on their agenda  
for this year (Kauszig, for example) I'd like to  
suggest that Administration representatives be deans  
therefore, I'd like to nominate



REC'D AUG 31 1972

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

To..... J. G. Drushal  
From..... F. W. Cropp  
Date..... August 30, 1972

Subject:

Campus Council

Two thoughts vis-a-vis Tuesday's Executive Committee meeting -- and particularly the vote on the Campus Council Vietnam Resolution.

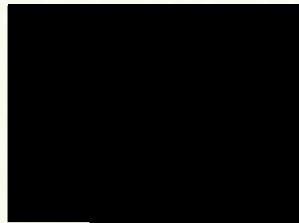
1. I did not realize fully until after I had really made my short "pitch" that the Trustees had not received copies of Turner's letter in advance of the meeting. Why not? I wish now I had asked for a 5 minute pause to read. I believe the result would have been the same, but I wish the letter had been read.
2. Although I cannot locate your letter to Jim Turner "protesting" Campus Council's taking a position on Vietnam -- or other such issues, it is apparent to me that Article II.A. of the Campus Council Memorandum does allow such statements. It reads:

"The Council shall have unlimited power to initiate, discuss and formulate recommendations on any matters it deems appropriate and to submit these recommendations to the appropriate campus body including the President and the Board of Trustees."

Should not an item on the Retreat agenda be a discussion of this clause -- and the advisability of trying to speak for the campus -- by a Faculty vote, an SGA vote, a Campus Council vote, etc.

FWC:kh

cc: Doris Coster



# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

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To..... President Drushal  
From..... James R. Turner  
Date..... June 7, 1972

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Subject: Campus Council's Vietnam Resolution

On May 9, shortly after President Nixon announced his decision to mine the principal harbors of North Vietnam, Campus Council adopted the following resolution.

The Vietnam war has continued for too long. American involvement in this war has brought death and destruction to the people and countryside of Southeast Asia. President Nixon's recent escalation of the war has compounded this misery. The American people want an end to our involvement in Southeast Asia; Congress should heed their call for peace.

Therefore it is resolved:

That the Campus Council of the College of Wooster condemns the actions of President Nixon in ordering the bombing, the mining of harbors, the blockading of supplies, and other acts of reprisal against the people of North Vietnam;

That we call upon the members of the campus community to join with the members of Campus Council in encouraging Congress to pass the necessary legislation to end American involvement in Southeast Asia immediately;

That to this end we call upon the College to ban all military recruiting operations on campus until American involvement in the Vietnam war is ended and we also urge the SYLC to continue its endeavors in regard to the morality of College investments, with particular regard to defense-related industries.

The resolution was adopted unanimously by the ten of Campus Council's twelve members who were present at the meeting.

In your letter of May 17 you invited me or some other member of Council to prepare a statement on the military recruiting request, which you would take to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

I should note at the beginning that I do not know the reasons each of the ten Council members had for voting in favor of the resolution, so this statement represents only my own thinking.

The request to ban military recruiting at the College until American involvement in the Vietnam war ends constitutes a very limited, primarily symbolic position with respect to the war. Viewed in this light, the request asks far too little of the College and, in itself, will have no effect on the war. Yet that fact is indicative of the inability many Americans feel to do anything effective to end the war. As rejection of the war has grown in recent years, Americans have used both conventional

and unconventional means to bring the war to an end. Americans have used the political process to elect a President who promised a plan to end the war. Americans have elected Senators and Representatives who advocated an end to the war but who, when a moment of decision arises, conclude that they must support the President's negotiating strategy for the time being. Americans have attempted to use the courts to end the war but have been turned back. Americans have demonstrated, picketed, and petitioned in order to end the war but the war continues. As a result of the failure of these various efforts, opposition to the war has come to seem increasingly futile. In many situations it seems that the most one can do is withhold his own tacit support of the war, which is what we now ask the College to do by denying America's military forces the privilege of recruiting members on this campus.

To review completely the question of why the character of the war makes the requested ban entirely justified would be far too time-consuming. Yet it should be remembered that the war has been almost inconceivably destructive of the area it is being fought to help. It is difficult to imagine any circumstances more harmful to Vietnamese society than continuation of the war. Whether one considers personal, social, economic, natural, or any other aspect of Vietnamese life, the means America continues to employ vitiate any contemplated achievement. The war obviously has been less destructive to the United States but here too the cost has been great. Americans have been bitterly divided among themselves in a way seldom seen in our history. A major part of a new generation of citizens has come of age convinced that American political leaders habitually lie. America has diverted immense resources away from the solution of pressing domestic problems.

Given these effects of the war, the College of Wooster would be doing little more than its ethical duty to forbid recruitment for the war on its campus.

It may be argued that the war will soon be over, judging by continued troop withdrawals, and that therefore there is little or no need for the College to ban recruiting. In fact, only the participation of American ground forces in the war is diminishing. The war itself continues to rage as fiercely as ever and American air and naval involvement has increased over earlier periods. There is simply no sure indication that American participation in the war, with the exception of ground combat, is diminishing now or will diminish in the near future.

Others may argue that the College should remain an open forum for debate on the issue of the war and that to ban military recruiting would violate the principle of the open forum. It seems idle for any institution to remain merely an open forum, for if the forum is to have meaning the ideas advocated must have consequences. The College would teach its students a poor lesson if it convinced them that argument must remain divorced from action and that a community dedicated to humane values must avoid applying those values in an institutional way. Certainly an institution should not abandon its openness lightly, but a ban on military recruitment would be a very minimal action in behalf of an unusually significant goal.

Moreover, the College of Wooster, as a college of the church, has a special obligation to move beyond the open forum. Such a college

must stand as an institution for a certain set of values and aspirations in society; it must believe that men and women act on their faith at some cost to themselves. Only last month the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church strongly condemned recent escalation of the war and urged speedy American withdrawal from Indochina. As a college of that specific church, it would be entirely appropriate for the College of Wooster to acknowledge that institutions are more than collections of individuals and that institutions have ethical responsibilities toward the great issues of our time.



James R. Turner  
Chairman, Campus Council

REC'D JUN 6 1972

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

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To..... President Drushal  
Subject:

From..... James R. Turner

Date..... June 5, 1972

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On the matter of Campus Council's resolution of May 9 concerning the Vietnam war, I will be sending you a statement in support of the request to suspend military recruitment on the campus. Some of the student members of Council apparently will take up the resolution in their meeting with the Trustees' Student Relations Committee. I will have the statement in your office by the end of the day Wednesday.

If you think it desirable that I attend the Executive Committee meeting in order to discuss the request I will be happy to do so. I am not sure that my presence will add that much to the statement so I will leave the decision to you.



May 17, 1972

Professor James Turner  
Chairman  
Campus Council  
The College of Wooster

Dear Professor Turner:

Thank you very much for your note of May 11 accompanying the resolution passed by Campus Council on May 9, 1972.

In regard to paragraph 1: Speaking as the Campus Council, I presume in the public mind you are detached enough from being "THE College of Wooster," that without regard to the merits or demerits of the position you would not be compromising the academic freedom of the College--as such a resolution would be if it were adopted by the faculty. The issue of academic freedom has not in any major way come before the Campus Council; but if it is going to be a policy to adopt resolutions on public issues, then it is perhaps a matter that should be discussed sometime.

In regard to paragraph 2: There is no problem; for in fact it is the most appropriate of the three, especially if the other agencies and persons involved do as I have done--use their own personal stationery and not that of the College.

In regard to paragraph 3, the two points covered therein: In terms of military recruiting operations, I shall of course refer this to the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for its consideration. I would like to invite you, or some person designated by you either to appear personally before the Executive Committee to discuss the matter or to prepare a written statement which I can give to them, or perhaps both. You should know that my own vote will be against this part of the resolution. In regard to the second point on the College investment program, the Finance Committee met again just last week for a rather lengthy discussion of the draft proposal for the Board. It is being revised

Professor James Turner

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May 17, 1972

again and, hopefully, will be ready for consideration at the June meeting of the full Board of Trustees. A copy, of course, will be available to Campus Council and to other members of the campus community.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Garber Drushal

JGD:rbs

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

To..... President Drushal

Subject: Campus Council resolution on  
Viet-nam

From..... James R. Turner

Date..... May 11, 1972

Council passed the attached resolution unanimously (10-0-0) at its May 9 meeting. The minutes of that meeting include the resolution but I thought you should receive a separate copy.

I have named a committee to take whatever action is appropriate in terms of the resolution. Bob Newman, a student, is chairman and the other members are Roy Haynes, Ken Plusquellec, and John Browder

Resolution passed by Campus Council, May 9, 1972.

The Vietnam War has continued for too long. American involvement in this war has brought death and destruction to the people and countryside of Southeast Asia. President Nixon's recent escalation of the War has compounded this misery. The American people want an end to our involvement in Southeast Asia; Congress should heed their call for peace.

Therefore it is resolved:

- 1) The Campus Council of The College of Wooster condemns the actions of President Nixon in ordering the bombing, the mining of harbors, the blockading of supplies, and other acts of reprisal against the people of North Vietnam.
- 2) We call upon the members of the campus community to join with the members of Campus Council in encouraging Congress to pass the necessary legislation to end American involvement in Southeast Asia immediately.
- 3) To this end, we call upon the College to ban all military recruiting operations on campus until American involvement in the Vietnam War is ended. We also urge the SYLC (ad hoc committee of concerned faculty and students) to continue its endeavors in regard to the morality of College investments, with particular regard to defense-related industries.