Faculty meeting called for anti-war actions

Kresge meeting calls for anti-war actions

A call for a nationwide general strike came out of a meeting which drew an estimated 1,200 persons to Kresge Auditorium yesterday, in response to President Nixon's recent escalation of the war in Vietnam.

The main meeting was an outgrowth of a smaller gathering held Tuesday, at which time it was decided that a nationwide organization to coordinate anti-war efforts would be formed at MIT.

The new organization, dubbed simply "The Committee," is headed by Project MAC Director Edward Fredman, who along with Professor of Psychology Stephan Chorovet and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Mary Hanafi '74, chaired Wednesday's meeting.

Early during the meeting, on recommendation from a group which assembled Tuesday night, a motion for a strike at MIT was brought up and discussed. Later during the meeting, a proposal calling for such a strike was passed nearly unanimously by the crowd of students and faculty employees. A steering committee was appointed to take over the strike machinery in motion.

Throughout the long discussion, one of the main issues discussed was participation and objectives, a number of alternatives were put forward for the consideration of the meeting. It was decided that several options be made available for participants. Among these were endorsement and support of any national strike against the war which might include the shutdown of the laboratory, an economic boycott of all but necessary consumer goods, a student strike on the principle of non-violence, and possible strikes in other industries.

Also at the meeting, an Economic Boycott Committee was formed which later volunteered to participate in the strike machinery. The Strike Steering Committee adopted unanimously the following resolutions:

The Strike Steering Committee calls upon all students, faculty, and MIT community to work for immediate

local and unconditional withdrawal from Vietnam.

Among the activities already under way:

1. Picketing and other direct action.
2. Undoubtedly, such activities will be duplicated by other groups.
3. Work to change the nature of work done at MIT from war-supporting to peaceful without allowing this to be done at the expense of MIT employees.
4. Economic boycott of nonessential goods.
5. Support those involved in expanding these activities in a nationwide scale.
6. Discontinuing our everyday busines to work in this manner.

The meeting was attended primarily by undergraduates, with several employees, faculty, and at least one non-MIT affiliated person present. There was no forum with formal method of addressing all elements of the MIT community.

After adopting the resolution, the group talked about the role which they might play in anti-war activities. Many suggestions for specific activities which the group might endorse were heard. After discussing several of these, it was agreed that the group organize a noon rally on Friday, and set up a picket and leafleting line in front of 77 Ave. this morning, as well as to work to inform the community of the activities and objectives which they might participate.

A tentative schedule of anti-war activities planned for the area in the near future is as follows:

Thursday, May 11
1) A Committee for Peace and Justice plans to return to the JFK Building in Boston to demonstrate again tomorrow.
2) A "kiss-in" and a demonstration of loneliness for the Vietnam War will be held at noon in the Student Center to protest for the JFK building.
3) There will be a picket and leafleting line on the streets around the Navy Yard starting at 8am. The purpose is to invite sailors and civilians employees in protesting the war. Take the subway to City Square.
4) The Newton Elliot Street Church will start ringing their bells at 7:30am, the time of the execution of the men in North Vietnam harbors.

Friday, May 12
5) Picketing in front of 77 Mass Ave. Starting at 8:00am.
6) A "picket line" to the White House will be open at 9am today in the lobby of Building 7.
7) A faculty emergency caucus will be held at noon in the Student Center's West Lounge to prepare for Friday's faculty meeting.
8) The employee caucus will be held at noon in front of the Personnel office of the Student Center with music and loud speakers.
9) There will be a meeting at the Biology Department at 1pm in a room to be announced on the Board. (Good!) 10) The meeting will be a meeting of the Militancy Subcommittee at 7pm in Layhill to call a rally to win at Dudley Square on Friday night, and to organize for the anti-war activities.
10) At the noon meeting of the Student Center, the "strike action" voted on by the Faculty of the 9th this month, will be held at noon in the Lobby of the Student Center.

Meeting in the president's reception area, the faculty members voted their concerns that the voices of those in Kresge be heard. Warner appeared sympathetic. At one point, however, he would like to see "positive faculty action" toward the war. However, he said, "it is the responsibility of the Congress to change the law in the current national and international situation." He said that the military action "should not be made after the fact" but must be the result of a "sense of the meeting." He also said that a "strike action" voted on by more than 1,000 people in the community in Kresge yesterday, and two dealing with the rights of students and employees from their obligations so that they can engage in anti-war activities.

A caucus of faculty will be held at noon tomorrow, May 11, in the West Lounge or the lobby of the Student Center to discuss resolutions and motions relevant to the faculty caucus to be presented at a Faculty meeting on Friday, May 12. All faculty are urged to attend.

During the Kresge meeting, about 1,200 faculty members gathered to discuss plans for a faculty meeting. With faculty chairman Harley Rogers announcing that the meeting could not call a meeting before Monday the "show is a night in the meeting," Rogers, a number of all the on-going activities in the community in Kresge yesterday, and two dealing with the rights of students and employees from their obligations so that they can engage in anti-war activities.

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