

Public Relations Office

Bucknell University
Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

MILTON STANDARD

May 5, 1970

Bucknell faculty joins students in moratorium

Bucknell University has declared a moratorium on classes for the remainder of the week "to enable students and faculty, individually and collectively, to engage in activities addressed to the current national crises."

At a meeting late Monday, the faculty, by a vote of 91-54, called for the suspension of normal university operations, including classes, between May 4 and 9. The resolution stated that "Faculty members who determine that they must hold regularly scheduled classes should be free to do so." However, it also indicated that students will not be penalized if they elect instead to participate in anti-war activities.

The action by the faculty came after approximately 1,000 students had voted nearly unanimously to accept a resolution presented by the Association of Bucknell Students calling for "a strike, which is not to be construed as action against the university, but which is necessary to immediately free the community from its routine activities, and open it up to the critical task of demonstrating renewed opposition throughout the nation designed to illustrate the serious disapproval of the American people concerning the President's policies."

Prior to the faculty vote on its resolution, President Charles H. Watts said "I would ask the faculty to regard this resolution with a critical awareness of the seriousness of this step.

"If the faculty decides to accept it, I would hope that each person would feel a moral obligation to protect two things: 1) the right, and even the responsibility, of his colleagues to differ, and 2) the right of the individual student to allocate his own time as he sees fit.

"It is most important that both our actions and our words be judicious and clear."

The student resolution called for "action projects" which "demonstrate our solidarity as individuals behind the principles of this statement." Among the actions taken already are a program of writing letters to Congressmen, the establishment of an "alternative university" which would be responsible for presenting courses on Indochina during the week, and the creation of an economic boycott committee which has called for a boycott of carbonated beverages.

The following statement was presented to the faculty by Dr. J. William Moore, professor and chairman of the department of education, following the vote by the faculty.

"Fifty-four members of the University faculty present and voting at the faculty meeting of May 4, 1970 did not support the corporate action of the faculty taken concerning the students' Strike Resolution. Support was not given for this resolution by many of these individuals even though some may have supported in principle the substance of the motion. The reason why many faculty members opposed the corporate action of the faculty on this matter is based on the belief that one of the most important characteristics of the university is the freedom of thought and action of its individual members where political issues are the concern and that this freedom should not be limited by the corporate action of the faculty as a whole."

The student resolution read as follows:

Whereas President Nixon, elected on a pledge of extricating the U. S. from its (See BUCKNELL, Page 12)



STUDENT RALLY — Bucknell University students gathered yesterday afternoon in the quadrangle on the campus to consider a moratorium on classes at the university in protest of United States moves in Cambodia.

More than a thousand students voted in favor of the moratorium and were joined by a majority of faculty members.