

U-M Survey Shows Grad Students Oppose Draft

Opposition to the Selective Service System is common among University of Michigan graduate students--but relatively few graduate students are inclined to take the risks involved in refusing to cooperate with the system.

Conceivably, the recent elimination of II-S (student) deferments for most graduate students will provoke more non-cooperation with the draft by students.

Those are the main conclusions of the most careful study anyone has conducted of opinions about Selective Service held by U-M graduate students.

THE STUDY'S statistical results are "inconsistent" and "depressing" in the opinion of Stuart B. Katz, president of U-M Graduate Assembly and a co-author of the study.

Katz and former graduate student Roy A. Ashmall recently wrote their 20-page study after tabulating results obtained when questionnaires about the draft were distributed to graduate students--male and female -- who registered last January for the U-M's winter term. Out of 8,329 graduate students considered eligible to register, 5,619 filled in all or parts of the questionnaire.

The study's main purposes were to learn how graduate students' opinions and plans were influenced by recent changes in Selective Service rules that end II-S deferments for graduate students, and to find out what actions graduate students would like U-M officials to take in response to the new draft rules.

AMONG the study's conclusions are these:

- Most U-M graduate students would like to see Selective Service abolished;
- Most U-M graduate students nevertheless favor II-S deferments;

- About one-fourth of graduate students would like to see the Rackham Graduate School's administrative officials take a position of outright "non-cooperation" with the new Selective Service rules;
- About one-fourth evidently consider a standing professional military force a suitable alternative to the draft.

Precisely 73 per cent of graduate students who answered the questionnaire say the military draft should be stopped. The same percentage favors keeping II-S deferments "assuming that some form of the draft system should be retained."

This is exactly opposite from the position advocated by the local Student Peace Union-Resistance group. That organization opposes accepting any type of deferment on the ground that doing so involves cooperating with a "regressive system."

Just 10 per cent of those who filled out the questionnaire endorse existing Selective Service rules, which allow II-S status for graduate students outside medical fields of study only if they completed at least one year of graduate school by last Oct. 1, with a limit of five years of deferment.

Seventy-one per cent urge making II-S status available for "all graduate students provided satisfactory progress toward a degree is being made."

Sex had a "puzzling" role in the study, Katz and Ashmall report.

AFTER COMPARING questionnaires returned by 3,738 male and 1,472 female graduate students, they concluded that "females were slightly more anti-draft than males and favored stronger action against the current draft system."

They found, for example, that 70 per cent of the males and 79 per cent of the coeds believe the Selective Service System should not be retained, with 28 per cent of the males and 32 per cent of the females favoring "non-cooperation"

At WMU Event
James Graham, 28909 Glen-
castle Dr., and David Kowall,
29192 Wellington Rd., both of
Farmington, recently attended
freshman orientation at West-
ern Michigan University.

THE LETTER PROBABLY STARTED IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN WRITING AS A PICTURE SIGN OF AN OXHEAD!

with the draft regulations by U-M officials. Support for H-S deferments for all graduate students was expressed by 71 per cent of the males, 72 per cent of the females.

The study's authors tentatively conclude that "the concept of 'self-interest' includes not only protection of oneself but also of others with whom one has special ties or interests." In short, female students would rather not see male students drafted.

In addition to showing that graduate students dislike the draft but generally do not object to accepting U.S. status when it is available, the study provides some indication of alternatives to Selective Service considered feasible by graduate students.

ALTERNATIVES listed on the questionnaire, and the percentage of support they received from graduate students answering the question, are:

Compulsory military service for physically qualified males: eight per cent of all who answered, nine per cent of males, four per cent of females;

Compulsory national service with options such as the Peace Corps or Vista: 39 per cent of all who answered, 36 per cent of males, 50 per cent of the females:

Abolish conscription for any purpose and fill military needs by some other means (presumably a professional military

force): 28 per cent of all who answered, 29 per cent of males, 27 per cent of females.

No replies to the question about alternatives to the draft were received from 17 per cent of the students who returned the questionnaire.

A FINAL QUESTION asked if graduate students believe U-M Graduate School officials should move beyond a "public statement" and/or "informal polit-

cal pressure" in seeking change in Selective Service rules.

cooperation with the present draft laws" by U-M officials was expressed by 27 per cent of students who replied, with 28 per cent of the males and 32 per cent of the coeds taking this position.

The Rackham Graduate

The Rackham Graduate School has been trying for several months to exert "informal political pressure" against ex-

endorsement of a statement by the National Association of Graduate Schools calling for reversal of the presidential order that ends H-S status for most graduate students.

Despite the apparently widespread desire by students for

as an institution, Katz and Ashmall conclude that individual graduate students "with II-S deferments are likely to be a source of dissatisfaction but not active dissent on the issue of the draft."

Although their questionnaire was not worded to provide evidence for this conclusion, they suggest that the recent changes in Selective Service rules may produce "Direct resistance against these laws in the near future."



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