

ASUC Senate Supports Demands, Not Strike

By STEVE SPINGLE
Staff Writer

The ASUC Senate, after four hours of debate, voted late Wednesday night not to support the Third World Liberation Front strike.

The resolution was defeated on the final vote of the evening due to the protest abstention of the Third World members on the Senate.

The action came after the Senate approved resolutions which voiced general support for the demands of the TWLF.

The resolution supporting the strike was defeated six to nine with five abstentions. Three of the abstentions were from the Third World people on the Senate and the fourth was by Mark St. Angelo.

The reason for their action was explained by Senator John Chang of the TWLF: "In abstaining," he said, "we have taken away the credit of the ASUC Senate to give support to the lives of our Third World brothers and sisters. The reason is because we believe that the ASUC Senate is hypocritical when it cannot back its ideals with commitment and action."

St. Angelo, after formal opening procedures, introduced the resolution. It consisted of three parts:

- "That the ASUC Senate supports the people of the Third World who are carrying on this struggle for self-determination;

- "That the ASUC Senate reaffirm its commitment to educate the University community regarding the conditions of Third World people, the history of their attempts to obtain the right of self-determination, and the issues of the present campus strike; and

- "That the ASUC Senate supports the demands of the Third World Liberation Front, and supports the strike on campus, and urges all other students to do the same."

Dean Walter Knight of the College of Letters and Science spoke to the Senate at the beginning of the marathon debate.

Explaining the decision making procedures of his office, he said that "decisions are made because those you are dealing with believe it is the right thing to do."

On the question of Third World College, Knight said it would help minority students adjust to the University environment and that "there is a lot of good academic material to study."

Defending his proposal for a department of Black Studies within the College of Letters and Science, he said, "You can start with a grand plan or with something that goes and put it together with what comes next and make a grand plan."

After a 15 minute break, during which most of the Senate went over to view the Wheeler Hall fire, St. Angelo, who introduced the resolution, called for a straw vote. Motions number one and two were unanimously approved, but number three was overwhelmingly rejected as worded.

Rich Rodriguez, spokesman for the TWLF, addressed the Senate after the first amendment to motion number three was defeated. He said that all people on the body are part of the civil rights generation, "but it becomes threatening when all the people you've been doing for suddenly do for themselves."

He said it is obvious that most Senators don't care about the Third World. "It has no power but a moral and ethical power. I urge each of you to look at your motives when you look at this resolution as is."

Three more amendments to motion number three were defeated. A second vote on the originally worded controversial motion failed by the 6-9-5 vote.

Senators Blast 'Inactive' ASUC Strike Vote

Jan. 23, 1969

An Open Letter to the
Community:

We, the undersigned four ASUC Senators, refused to give the ASUC Senate the credit of supporting the TWLF strike at its January 22 meeting. The final vote was 6-9 with 5 abstentions on a resolution supporting the strike.

We abstained. Had we voted as we originally intended — in support of the resolution — the resolution would have passed, 10-9-1.

After a long evening of debate to bring the relevant issues to the fore, we concluded that the ASUC Senate would be hypocritical to go on record as supporting the

strike, for the following reasons:

1) Votes, like other actions, should follow from conviction. Many Senators, even those who supported the goals, were not convinced of the merits of the strike;

2) Resolutions, however admirable, are meaningless and lead to false impressions and harmful consequences if not fully understood;

3) The Senate continues to be irrelevant to other students' lives because it continues to be irrelevant to itself. The reason is powerlessness to effect change. Powerlessness is a common fate for the Senate, the TWLF and all students: The TWLF has moved to

gain some power for students; the Senate has not. Unless the Senate understands its own powerlessness, it will be unable to understand — and hence support — movements for student power and self-determination.

We, the undersigned, are fully committed to supporting the TWLF strike, not only in words, but in action, because we recognize that efficacy over one's own life is at issue, not specific bureaucratic demands.

— Salvador Estrada
— John Chang
— Floyd Huen
— Mark St. Angelo
ASUC Senators

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ASUC SENATE STRIKE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the majority of the student body is sympathetic with the demands of the Third World Liberation Front, and

WHEREAS, participation in the governance of the various units of the University by the people affected is the major philosophical issue involved in the TWLF demands and in the goals of the Associated Students, and

WHEREAS, the patience shown by the various TWLF groups in pursuing the establishment of so called "ethnic studies programs" is commendable, some waiting over nine months, and

WHEREAS, the successful fulfillment of the demands set forth by the Third World Liberation Front is in the best interest of the members of the Associated Students and the people of the State of California,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California supports the demands of the TWLF, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Associated Students supports the strike of all classes on campus and authorizes the executive officers of the Associated Students to reserve facilities for informational meetings concerning the strike and to utilize up to \$100 for paper and supplies for printing literature in support of the position of ASUC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Officers are authorized to direct the activities of ASUC sponsored groups in support of the position of ASUC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each member of the Senate in favor of the resolution and all other interested students will participate in fixing responsibility on those members of the Academic Senate who are responsible for impeding progress on the demands.

PASSES 12 - 3

29, 1969

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