Statement by University of Wisconsin President Fred Harvey Harrington

We have been asked by a group of students to state our views of Selective Service. I have conferred with the Chancellors of the Madison and Milwaukee campuses and we have agreed that this is an area in which responsible people can and do differ; that the University's official position must be the protection of individual choice and encouragement of free and open discussion.

The University seeks to give each student what help he wishes in dealing with his draft board. If he wants the University to report that he is enrolled, or to report his rank in class a student need only request this service. Similarly, the University makes it possible for those students who wish to to take the deferment test.

Clearly the student is free to accept or reject these services. The University's position is that each student must be free to exercise the choice with respect to use of the rank in class and test criteria.

University policy protecting the individual student's rights and the privacy of student records was developed some time ago by a faculty-student committee. The University, for example, gives prospective employers official student records only when the student specifically so requests.

We recognize room for differences of opinion of these and other university policies and welcome discussion of them.

The president of the student body on the Madison campus has assured me that Student Senate will take up this matter tomorrow night and that its views will be communicated to the faculty. A meeting of the All-University faculty is scheduled for May 25th. The administration has placed a discussion of University draft policies on that agenda. The University Committee has been asked to review this matter and report its findings and recommendations to the faculty.

Meanwhile, we encourage all students and faculty to make their opinions known. The University of Wisconsin can deal with questions of this sort very well within its traditions of free opinion and full participation.