Students Protest CIA’s Recruiting On Campus; 11 Are Arrested

The November 14 arrest of 11 demonstrators protesting the presence of a CIA representative at the University has spurred campus debate over the agency’s recruitment efforts, but failed to stop the scheduled interviews.

A protest the previous night at the University Career Center prevented a CIA information session. But interviews were conducted at another location the next day, notes Dennis Madson, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

The arrests on Friday, November 14 were ordered after protesters entered the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Office in Whitmore and refused to leave after being warned they were in violation of the University picketing code. The code prohibits demonstrators from entering offices or interfering with their operation.

The Chancellor’s Office and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs released a statement during the protest to say that the University supports “the right of its students to pursue a career of their choosing” and forbids barring representatives “whose employers are the subject of controversy.”

In addition, the statement adds that (continued on page 2)

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“faculty, students and staff retain their right to oppose the philosophy, actions and the presence of the CIA” within the limits of the Picketing Code.

In response to the demonstrations, Madson planned to meet with student representatives this week to discuss U.S. involvement in Latin America and possible campus educational efforts to promote awareness of American foreign policy and the role of the CIA.