Conservatives, radicals clash at demonstration

No arrests reported among the 400 protesters

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Pro and anti-CIA demonstrators clashed peacefully but loudly yesterday at the Student Union and the Whitmore Administration Building. There were no arrests during the 90 minutes of marching and chanting by about 400 students.

The only piece of property to be taken was the Radical Student Union office in the Student Union Building, when about 30 conservative students forced their way into the office and held it for about half an hour, singing patriotic songs and taunting "radicals."

The two groups exchanged chants and insults for about a half hour with the conservatives lining the Whitmore ramp and the anti-CIA students packed up against the building on the grass.

About 20 UMass faculty and staff wearing white arm bands mingled among the crowd as "observers" and "peacekeepers" throughout the demonstration.

As student protesters marched around the administration building, they were again blocked from entering by conservatives. The anti-CIA protesters walked back to the Student Union stopping briefly in front of Memorial Hall.

Those opposed to and those in favor of the University hosting CIA recruitment on campus made their presences felt yesterday as hundreds came out to voice opinions on the issue.

The peaceful demonstration was in contrast to last month's sit-ins by members of the Radical Student Union and other students, in which 71 people were arrested and UMass and state police physically confronted supporters of the anti-CIA students.

At yesterday's rally, students presented a list of demands. These included a ban on all recruiting by organizations that violate international and domestic law, a review of the Student Picketing Code and that the University not file campus or court charges against those students arrested in previous anti-CIA protests.

Dwayne Warren, a member of the Student Senate's Third World Caucus and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity told the crowd at the rally's end that Chancellor Joseph D. Duffy had refused all the protesting students' demands. "If we have to do this every week then by God let's do it," he said.

Duffy did give details after the rally about a commission being formed in response to demands accepted by the administration last month. Duffy said the panel would be headed by political science Professor Dean Alfange and include students and other faculty members.

The Chancellor also announced that he has invited the Stop CIA Recruitment Organizing Committee to pick three representatives to meet with him Dec. 15.

"This is not in response to the group's demands, but is part of the administration's look at the issue," said administration spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins-Stover.

A face-off appeared inevitable yesterday after members of the "radical" group and the UMass Conservative Alliance scheduled their demonstrations for the same time and place.

The confrontation developed quickly. At times the speeches of members of the RSU were drowned out by chants of "USA, USA" from pro-CIA students who carried flags and signs with slogans such as, "Free Speech For Everyone, Even the CIA."

At one point someone threw a bar of soap at the podium where RSU leader Marc Kenen was speaking.

Community activist and UMass graduate Todd Little said organizers of the anti-CIA...