

## Pennsylvania University Clarifies Its Policy on Secret Research Contracts

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The faculty of the University of Pennsylvania will receive a near-veto over future university contracts with the Government or private industry that limit the right to publish the results of research.

Under a proposal almost certain of approval, a faculty committee of eight will pass on all such contracts and will advise the university president, Dr. Gaylord P. Harnwell. According to university authorities, any strong opposition by the faculty committee to any such contract will be heeded by Dr. Harnwell.

The development comes a few days after the university had

made clear its intention of avoiding future contracts that deny it the right to publish research material. That decision had been preceded by criticism of secrecy imposed on research contracts for the Government on chemical and biological warfare.

However, contrary to a report in The New York Times on Monday, the university will not cancel contracts it has already undertaken that forbid publication of research. But it will try to persuade the Government or the industry involved in such contracts to drop or ease such restrictions.

"We do not have the right to abrogate a contract unilaterally," said Dr. David R. Goddard, provost of the university, in an interview today at his office

here. "We hope, in the future, to have academic freedom clear across the board.

"We will try to avoid all contracts in the future that limit publication of research. If there is any question, such contracts will be referred to the faculty committee, which will make its recommendations to the president."

But, he said, the university reserves the right of secrecy if a national state of emergency is declared and the national security is clearly endangered by publication of research.

He pointed out that it would have been a very grave error for university scientists to publish research on nuclear fission when Hitler was trying to develop an atomic bomb.

"We cannot be guilty of encouraging a breach of national security if there is a state of national emergency," he said.

The proposal for a faculty committee to pass on contracts that impose secrecy was put forward yesterday by the advisory committee of the University Senate, which is made up of 1,100 of the university's 1,537 faculty members. Only those with a rank of associate professor or higher are in the senate.

The proposal was announced by Dr. Julius Wishner, professor of psychology, who is chairman of the senate. It will be recommended to the full senate at a meeting to be held late this month.

The senate under this plan would select four of the eight

men on the new committee and the president of the university would name the other four. The chairman, who would be one of the eight, would be picked by the president.

Dr. Goddard pointed out that in some cases secrecy was not a matter of security. Thus, the university sometimes does research for private industry and agrees to withhold publication for a year to protect the private sponsor's patent rights. There are other cases, he said, of contracts with the Government that give the university access to private information, where "common sense dictates some limitation on publication."

Unaffected by the university's position on attempts to impose secrecy on research, Dr. Goddard said, are ideas and projects undertaken by individuals on their own, without contract, or as members of Government panels. Such work, he said, does not involve university contracts. "The university," he declared, "believes in making a clear distinction between what a man does as an individual and what he does under a university contract."

He estimated that of the 800-odd contracts the university has with the Government and industry, less than 20 were subjects of controversy about secrecy. He said that as far back as last winter and spring, the university had begun to refuse contracts that restricted freedom of publication.