

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA,
Tucson, Ariz., February 24, 1968.

Hon. EDITH GREEN,
House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MRS. GREEN: The critically serious consequences of the administration of the Selective Service Act as announced by General Hershey following the recent decisions of the National Security Council will be so crippling to the University of Arizona and to higher education nationally that I am impelled to seek your assistance and urge your support of congressional action designed to avert what could well be national disaster.

The recently circulated position paper of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States summarizes accurately the disruptive effects of the present scheme. We concur with it completely. Reliable statistics prepared by the Scientific Manpower Commission show clearly that the pattern of drafting men in the presently stipulated age sequence (which makes prospective and first-year graduate students the most available of all eligible men) could reduce the number of first- and second-year graduate students by 40 to 50 per cent. This could have such a disastrous effect on the production of doctorates (for education, government service, and industry) five years hence as to undo in great measure the substantial improvement in advanced degree production brought about by the past and present massive federal support of capable students through the National Defense Education Act, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and others.

Our own statistics show that we shall likely lose 38.5 per cent of the full-time first- and second-year graduate men normally expected for 1968-69. These men constitute some 28 per cent of our anticipated group of about 1,250 graduate assistants. In common with other large public universities, virtually all of our elementary classes in English, foreign languages, mathematics, and science laboratories are taught by graduate assistants. As our undergraduate enrollment increases by another 8 to 10 per cent next year, the loss of about one-fourth of our graduate assistant instructors could mean almost complete breakdown of this segment of our undergraduate instructional program.

We think it unrealistic and quite improper to suggest blanket deferment of graduate students or even categorical deferment beyond that of the health professions specified in the present law, and we would support no such proposal. But the present policy of drafting the oldest first seems equally unfair in its virtual guarantee of drafting all able-bodied, unmarried non-veterans and so disruptive to higher education that a middle ground must be sought.

Random selection within the 19 to 26 year age group not only seems eminently fair to all men concerned (both those normally headed for graduate school and those not so inclined); it would also decrease the disastrous consequences of the current scheme by approximately two-thirds. *We urgently request the Congress to provide for a random selection procedure.*

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD A. HARVILL.

LEXINGTON, KY.,
February 26, 1968.

Representative EDITH GREEN,
Chairman, Special Subcommittee on Education, Committee on Education and Labor, Rayburn House Office, Washington, D.C.:

Recently announced selective service regulations will have major impact on the oldest eligible young men. If these prevail the University of Kentucky along with other universities with strong graduate programs will be unable to fulfill its responsibilities to the Nation in other than the medical, dental, and allied specialties. We do not deem blanket deferments for graduate students necessary at this time. University of Kentucky can perform its service to the Nation if selection falls equitably on all ages in the eligible pools. We strongly recommend this course of action.

JOHN W. OSWALD,
President, University of Kentucky.