

Voice Proposal Concerning Recruiters

The presence of recruiters on campus has been defended on the grounds that it is a part of free speech. Recruiting has been equated with giving a speech or holding a rally. This argument leads logically to a position which sees the appearance of recruiters as an occasion for discussion concerning not only the technical details of the job but also the basic assumptions of the recruiting firm or agency.

I. Any recruiter from a controversial agency must be willing to publicly defend the policy of the agency if a significant number of students or faculty desire this. Since some recruiters, those from the Armed Forces, are not allowed to discuss policy, another representative from that entity, the U.S. government in the case of the Armed Forces, can substitute for the recruiter in this role.

II. The format should involve a panel debate open to the public. Speakers on both sides of the relevant topic should appear on the panel as well as the agency representative. Questions and statements from the floor should follow inter-panel discussion and presentations. (The Dow panel at the Law School is a model)

III. No firm or agency has to appear in a forum more than once a semester even if representatives from this entity appear more than once a semester as recruiters. This section is particularly devised to cover the US government, which has recruiters from several agencies on campus several times a semester. A government representative would have to appear once a semester to defend policy as long as the government remained controversial.

IV. The determination of what recruiters are controversial should be done by the advisory board to the bureau of appointments. This body should not make political decisions but only whether a significant number of students or faculty feel that the recruiter is from a controversial agency or firm and that they desire a forum. The board would arrange the panel according to II and publicize the meeting. Funds for publicity should come from the bureau of appointments budget since the forums are an integral part of the placement procedure. A student or faculty member who requests a forum and is turned down by the board can collect 100 signatures of faculty and students. This petition ensures that the panel will occur, assuming none of the other sections of this proposal are violated. The panel would be set up as stated above by the board.

It should be clearly stated that this proposal would require the appearance of a representative from a controversial agency or firm if that agency or firm is recruiting on campus.