

## **Narrative of the Selective Service Status of**

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### **Detailing the Support of Carnegie Mellon University**

This is an accounting of my status with regard to the Selective Service from the Fall of 1966 to September 14, 1971. It is both my personal history and an accounting of the role played by several key administrators of the University. While I intend to write it objectively, I want also to make clear what I consider to be my great personal debt to those involved and my gratitude to them and to the University for their support.

Throughout my time at Carnegie Mellon the Department of Mathematics, now the Department of Mathematical Sciences, has depended very heavily on the contributions of its graduate students to carry out its instructional mission. The late 1960's and early 1970's were no different.

But in the Fall of 1967 a very large percentage of its entering graduate students were draft eligible young men, and the war in Vietnam was intensifying as was the need of the Army for draftees. By the Spring of 1968 it was apparent to the Mathematics Department, and I believe to other departments around the University, that a large number of their first year graduate students would be drafted.

The University probably had to work to retain several graduate students to carry out teaching duties but I suspect that my case was the most complicated and hard fought.

The key players were Professors Ignace I. Kolodner and Richard A. Moore, Head and Associate Head, respectively, of the Department of Mathematics. To meet the Department's teaching commitment and to retain its first year graduate students, they decided it would be necessary to hire several graduate students as Instructors. The new Instructors would mainly teach a Sophomore course, Intermediate Analysis I & II, in small sections instead of large lectures with recitations.

Communications with the Selective Service were handled by Earle R. Swank, Dean of Student Affairs, ably assisted by Mary Ryan, a kindly, white haired woman in his office. Both were extremely supportive. I seem to have communicated nearly daily with one or the other of them during much of 1968.

Official notifications to my Local Board 167 were done by Edward R. Schatz, Vice President for Academic Affairs. I do not recall meeting Dr. Schatz at this time, but we got together years later for a discussion of the draft during a course called "1968" taught by Edwin Fenton for which an early version of this document was prepared. As an aside, I note that his letter of July 29, 1969 bears testimony to his and the University's commitment to serving minority students.

Also important to me was Tom Kerr, then a Lecturer in GSIA, now the Tepper School of Business. He was very active in the ACLU and I consulted him on several occasions. He advised me to take as much time as the Selective Service would give me at each step

and wait for them to make a procedural error. I believe that they ultimately did make an error in not informing the University of their intention to draft me. He also advised me to never mention him or the ACLU to my Board since both were perceived enemies of the draft. When my case reached the Presidential Board appeal level, he simply wished me well since he had never known anyone to get that far.

Lieutenant General Lewis B. Hershey was the Director of the Selective Service at the time. I would occasionally refer to my position informally during this period as "The Lieutenant General Lewis B. Hershey Instructor of Mathematics."

### Chronology

Copies of several of the documents referred to in this chronology are included.

- Sept, 1966: I deliberately postpone taking a course in order not to graduate from the University of Akron in January. I believed that this was the best course of action with respect to the draft.
- Mar 23, 1967: I am offered a Teaching Assistantship at Carnegie Tech.
- Mar 28, 1967: I am accepted for graduate study in Mathematics at Carnegie Tech.
- Apr 28, 1967: Earle Swank files Graduate or Professional College Student Certificate.
- July, 1 1967: Selective Service policy is changed. Subsequent to this date anyone requesting a II-S student deferment to pursue graduate study must waive all future rights to a III-A fatherhood deferment. I am unaware of the change. Also, apparently, if I had taken one of my mathematics courses at Akron for graduate credit the previous Spring my problems with the Selective Service could all have been avoided.
- Oct 9, 1967: Earle Swank files Graduate or Healing Arts College Student Certificate.
- Nov 15, 1967: I am classified II-S - student deferment - by Local Board 167.
- Feb ?, 1967: The Selective Service reverses the order of the draft from youngest first to oldest first. This places graduate students in their early 20's in jeopardy. Academic departments fear the loss of their first year graduate students.
- Mar 25, 1968: Local Board 167 sends a form requiring me to re-request a II-S deferment. I declined to sign because it would cause me to lose any right to a fatherhood deferment and it would only be for a month or two.
- Apr 1, 1968: Colonel Grimm, Assistant Chief, Manpower Division, Pennsylvania Selective Service Headquarters, indicates that my II-S classification was not proper.

- Apr 3, 1968: Mrs. Virginia Milligen, Assistant Dean of Students, appoints me a pre-college counselor for an NSF supported Summer program for high school students. It seemed like a good idea to stay academically employed while applying for a critical skills deferment.
- Apr 8, 1968: Earle Swank indicates his intention to request an occupational deferment when my Teaching Assistant appointment becomes final.
- Apr 17, 1968: I am classified I-A by Local Board 167.
- Apr 24, 1968: Colonel Grim notifies Earle Swank that I must teach half time (20 hours, or four courses of 3 credits each) for a II-A deferment.
- Apr 24, 1968: I am ordered to report for a physical.
- Apr 29, 1968: I request a personal appearance to request a II-A classification.
- Apr 29, 1968: E. R. Schatz notifies my Board that I am to carry a "full load of teaching and graduate study" and requests an occupational deferment.
- Apr 30, 1968: Earle Swank supports E. R. Schatz request with a description of my Summer duties.
- May 1, 1968: Professor Ignace Kolodner supports the request by E. R. Schatz with a letter to my local Board.
- May 7, 1968: I am granted a personal appearance for May 15, 1968.
- May 9, 1968: I have a physical exam at the Federal Building in Pittsburgh.
- May 10, 1968: I receive a formal letter of appointment as an Instructor of Mathematics for 1968-69 from Professor Kolodner.
- May 10, 1968: I submit a copy of my letter of appointment specifying my teaching duties to Local Board 167.
- May 10, 1968: E. R. Schatz details the impact of Selective Service actions on the University's ability to staff Freshman mathematics and physics courses, and indicates that Earle Swank would be available for my personal appearance.
- May 15, 1968: I have my personal appearance and submit a statement. Earle Swank is not permitted to appear and waits outside.
- May 15, 1968: I am reclassified I-A by Local Board 167.
- May 16, 1968: Local Board 167 mails a statement of my acceptability for service based on my physical.
- Jun 10, 1968: I initiate an appeal of my classification indicating that CMU would request a II-A deferment.

- Jun 10, 1968: Earle Swank sends a three page letter supporting my request indicating that my Local Board had failed to inform me of a change in Selective Service policy regarding student deferments. He also cited a speech by General Hershey that indicated that local boards had discretionary power to grant deferments to Teaching Assistants.
- Jun 24, 1968: Earle Swank is informed by Local Board 167 that they took no action on my case at their meeting of June 18.
- Jun 24, 1968: My local board informs me that that my file has been forwarded to the Appeal Board.
- Jul 29, 1968: I am classified I-A by the Appeal Board by a vote of 4-0.
- Jul 30, 1968: Earle Swank discusses my case with by phone with Colonel Rock who had just replaced Colonel Grim at the State Board.
- Aug 1, 1968: Earle Swank requests a reopening of my classification, citing possible bias against me by the Appeal Board because of my refusal to re-request a II-S deferment, and the difficulty of replacing me for the Fall semester.
- Aug 24, 1968: Susie and I get married.
- Aug 28, 1968: Local Board 167 sends an Order To Report For Induction on September 11 at 5:30 AM.
- Aug 29, 1968: Susie and I return from our honeymoon and my draft notice arrives. I call Mrs. Ryan. CMU has not been notified that I am to be drafted. A procedural error, perhaps?
- Sep 6, 1968: Earle Swank submits additional information to my Local Board.
- Sep 10, 1968: I am informed that the State Director has initiated a Presidential Appeal in my case, and I do not need to report for induction the next day.
- Jan 2, 1969: I am classified II-A by the Presidential Appeal Board.
- Jul 29, 1969: E. R. Schatz informs my Local Board that I have been reappointed for 1969-70. His letter discusses the importance of my duties with respect to a program "attempting to meet a vital need in the local community effort to eradicate social and educational problems of underprivileged young people." This referred to my assignment to teach in the Upward Bound program. He requests a continued occupational deferment.
- Mar 2, 1970: I write to Local Board 167 to supplement the July 29, 1969 letter from E. R. Schatz by informing them that I am to be re-appointed for 1970-71.
- Apr 15, 1970: I am classified II-A by Local Board 167.
- Aug 3, 1970: E. R. Schatz informs Local Board 167 that I have been re-appointed for 1970-71 and will continue to teach for Upward Bound. He requests continued occupational deferment.

Sep 15, 1970: I am classified II-A by Local Board 167.

Feb 10, 1971: I turn 26 and am no longer eligible for the Draft.

Sep 3, 1971: E. R. Schatz informs my Local Board that I have not been re-appointed for 1971-72, and I return to being a full-time graduate student.

Sep 14, 1971: I am re-classified I-A by Local Board 167.