Ohio State withdraws

Schools Question NSA Affiliation

By Harvey Pollard

The National Student Association, which Rice joined last March, has received a disaffiliation notice from Ohio State University, and narrowly survived votes at Vanderbilt and the University of Michigan.

The rebellion at Ohio State was led by the student newspaper, the student government, and Columbus area conservatives. The charge levied was that Ohio State was deriving no benefits from membership.

NSA President Dennis Shaul, who went to Ohio State to defend the organization, said that he thought that the vote was largely the result of misunderstanding the role of a national student union.

At OSU, the vote was 4859 to 2607, about 20% of the eligible voters. At Vanderbilt, the Student Senate voted to withdraw from NSA, but student government president Thomas Abernathy, under constitutional rules, vetoed the withdrawal.

Proponents of the withdrawal at Vanderbilt, who could not muster the two-thirds vote necessary to override the veto, charged the university's voice was not being heard in the NSA congress. The second charge was that NSA voiced opinions on topics not related to student affairs.

William Brooks, secretary of student affairs, said the student body was not in complete agreement on membership in an organization that supported 'sitting.'

Abernathy's veto was supported by a history professor, who stated that withdrawal from NSA would be subservience to conventional attitudes, leaving Vanderbilt with no companions but 'ole Miss.'

The University of Michigan's joust with NSA was promoted by what the Michigan Daily called the 'Inter-Quadrangle Council Conservative hierarchy.'

The 'hierarchy' charged that the NSA was unrepresentative, that it cost too much, that it was controlled by a 'leftist elite,' devoted to partisan political concerns, and that it would be easier to work for reform from the outside.

While NSA won at Michigan, the vote was close. The vote breakdown showed that the "Greeks" voted almost solidly "no," while the "Quads," home of the "hierarchy," and of the vast majority of students at Michigan, swung the vote to the "yes" column.