

Mosher Sues Stanford

Steven W. Mosher, the anthropology student who was dismissed from his graduate studies at Stanford in a dispute about his performance as a researcher in China, has sued the university for alleged breach of contract, libel, slander, and violation of his right of free speech. The suit, filed on 29 September by California attorney Melvin Belli, charges Stanford with interfering with Mosher's ability to earn a living by denying him a graduate degree in anthropology, and demands damages "in an amount not yet ascertained." Belli suggests the figure will be large.

Stanford defends its actions in the Mosher case, which began in 1983 when he gained notice after publishing an article in a Taiwanese magazine about forced sterilization and late-trimester abortion in the People's Republic of China (*Science*, 13 May 1983, p. 692). Subsequently, Chinese officials alleged that Mosher had acted illegally while working in a small village near Canton. An investigation into Mosher's behavior by the anthropology department resulted in a decision to oust him from the doctoral program. In accordance with Stanford procedure, the decision has been reviewed on appeal by various Stanford bodies. It was ultimately sustained last year by Stanford president Donald Kennedy (*Science*, 18 October 1985, p. 298), who concluded that Mosher was not honest with him during the course of his investigation. "Stanford remains confident of its case," the university said in a recent statement, while officials noted that, when all the appeals were finished, Mosher's expulsion had been reviewed and "sustained without dissent" by 19 people from Stanford and elsewhere.

Many of the details of the specific allegations against Mosher of illegal and unethical conduct have never been revealed by Stanford, which says it must maintain confidentiality in order to avoid harm to innocent persons in China. Mosher, too, has declined to speak publicly about the specifics.

Mosher, still without his Ph.D., has just been named director of Asian studies at the Claremont Institute in Montclair, California. "We in Claremont have long believed that America's principles and her foreign interests are essentially connected," said Institute chairman Larry Arnn in announcing Mosher's appointment. Referring to Mosher's published work about "China's coercive population control campaign," a Claremont statement paints Mosher as a hero. "Disregarding warnings from his col-

leagues at Stanford University, Mosher made public his explosive research findings and photographs (of women undergoing abortion)," it says.

Although Mosher has accused Stanford of expelling him in order to placate angry Chinese officials and thereby preserve the university's good relations with China, Stanford has steadfastly maintained that its actions against Mosher were based solely on his activities as an anthropology graduate student. ■ **BARBARA J. CULLITON**

AAU Praises New Version of A-21 Rules

To the delight of the Association of American Universities, which represents more than 50 of the country's major research campuses, the Office of Management and Budget has agreed to an important revision in the rules governing reimbursement of indirect costs for federally sponsored research. The revision in what is



Robert Rosenzweig helped negotiate deal with OMB.

known as OMB Circular A-21 sets a fixed reimbursement rate of 3.6% of modified total direct costs for the administrative work of department heads, faculty, and professional research staff, thereby relieving them of the onerous (many would say impossible) task of trying to separate administrative, teaching, and research activities with sufficient precision to satisfy accountants. In June, OMB had proposed an overhead rate of only 3%, down from the 5 to 6% that many universities have received in years

past. AAU president Robert M. Rosenzweig says the A-21 revision is "welcome news" for faculty who will no longer have to engage in "effort reporting," which is an attempt to make faculty account for their time much the way lawyers do. According to the new A-21, "No documentation is required to support this allowance," of 3.6% administrative overhead. Research universities have been battling OMB for months to undo the requirement for time and effort reporting.

OMB saw the 3% cap as a way of saving \$100 million from the federal budget while, in AAU's words, it was "ignoring a set of cost principles developed over the years and closely linked to the nature of our peculiar system of higher education." Considerations linked to the budget should not drive accounting principles, AAU says.

Rosenzweig, who is publicly thanking OMB deputy director Joseph R. Wright, as well as members of Congress for their cooperation, says "Reaching this agreement has been a long and difficult process." Discussions on the matter held through the National Academy of Sciences' Government-University-Industry Roundtable were also vital to the outcome, Rosenzweig says. "The efforts of OMB to respond to university concerns affirm the importance of working together on important national research policy issues," he declares. ■

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OECD Urges Case-by-Case Review for Releasing Engineered Organisms

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has backed away from recommending that international guidelines be established in the near future to cover the conditions under which genetically modified organisms can be released into the environment.

The OECD council has passed a resolution suggesting that the risks of releasing organisms containing recombinant DNA into the environment be evaluated on a "case-by-case" basis. For industrial and laboratory applications of genetic engineering, it is sufficient to specify the use of "appropriate containment measures," the resolution said.

The development of general international guidelines governing agricultural and environmental applications of recombinant DNA organisms "is considered premature at this time," the council stated, adding that