

Grad Schools Fear Draft Publicity

Deans of some of the nation's most prestigious graduate schools are worried about recent publicity that the abolition of draft deferments has not hurt graduate schools.

They fear the publicity will make it difficult for them to lobby for a change in the draft law when the new Congress and administration take office in January.

Most graduate school deans had predicted dire consequences when graduate deferments were ended last February. "Graduate schools will be filled with the halt, the lame, the blind and the female," was the most popular prediction. But statistics show that graduate schools' enrollments haven't dropped significantly, and the press has been full of stories that the graduate schools aren't badly hurt.

"Nobody knows whether graduate schools are badly hurt," says Gustave Arlt, president of the Council of Graduate Schools in the U.S. "Who are these students?"

Arlt is urging that universities gather more information about their graduate students. He said, "We need to know who is enrolled and why."

Specific things graduate schools should know, according to Arlt, include which disciplines have had increases and which have had decreases in enrollment, how many of the students are part-time only, and statistics showing prospective graduate students who were drafted, enlisted to avoid being drafted, or who took positions in teaching and industry to avoid the draft.

Arlt's position won an endorsement from the Association of Graduate Schools at a recent meeting here. The AGS is a division of the American Association of Universities (AAU), a prestige

association which requires universities to meet certain standards before it will admit them. It has only 44 members.

Besides adopting Arlt's recommendation, the AGS also called on universities to watch draft developments "almost on a day-to-day basis," to do all they can to convince Congress of "the magnitude of their problems and their need for assistance," and to "correct the folklore about the draft that is doing them so much damage."

This "folklore," the AGS's committee on the draft said, involves the "notion that many or even most graduate students are in fact draft evaders."