

# Despite concession, chaos reigns

50  
Alliance  
for Demo

## Four-day protest halted by early-morning riot police raid; 54 arrested

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Fifty-four protesters were arrested early Sunday morning after a four-day occupation of Chancellor David Ward's reception area in Bascom Hall.

An anti-sweatshop rally held Wednesday afternoon quickly escalated into a sit-in where protesters asked for Ward to take action by joining the Worker Rights Consortium as a full member and to withdraw from the Fair Labor Association.

Ward complied with the protesters' demand to leave the FLA on Wednesday after fighting this issue for several months. He also told protesters they could have access to his office until Monday.

Despite these words, 50 university police, state police and sheriffs entered Bascom Hall at 4 a.m. in full riot gear to remove protesters from the vicinity. Protesters face charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly; 16 were issued an additional charge of resisting arrest and one was charged with underage alcohol consumption.

The protesters were released by 8 p.m. Sunday on bail.

On Friday Ward announced that UW-Madison, along with University of Michigan and Indiana University, would join the WRC as provisional members.

"We would like to help the WRC become a viable instrument for ensuring licensee compliance with workplace standards," Ward said. "We agreed to withdraw from the FLA in order to eliminate our provisional membership in that organization from continuing to distract the community for the larger issues of sweatshop abuses."

Protesters were not impressed with the provisional membership level UW would assume with the WRC.

Associated Students of Madison chair Adam Klaus agreed discussion with Ward was needed.

"We want some concrete commitments from Chancellor Ward. His proposals are very vague regarding the Worker Rights Consortium," he said. "I hope they don't resort to violence. We have discussed non-violence, and non-violence is the only way to go."

On Saturday, Ward gave a statement to protesters saying he would not deal

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with their demands any further and that they should vacate the premises.

"I have committed this campus as far as I can without additional input from the governance process. You can choose to rejoin that process or not," he said. "As a campus, we will move forward. I will not accept any more demands. Do not expect negotiations with me for a decision you must make."

Protesters were outraged and demanded Ward speak to them about their demands.

"My concerns have never been treated as legitimate," said Alliance for Democracy member Molly McGrath. "I just ask that you sit down with us and talk to us."

Protesters said they would not leave until a dialogue was had with Ward and their demands met.

"We do not feel that [the seven demands] have been met," said Alliance for Democracy member Mark Brakken. "We're going to stay here until those demands have been met."

Vice Chancellor Paul Barrows and Associate Dean of Students Roger Howard addressed the students' demands, but responded by asking the protesters to leave for their own safety.

"This is a no-win situation for everybody," Barrows said. "I don't want any more stalemate or confrontation."

Protesters regrouped and decided to remain in the office despite the threat of arrest.

"The chancellor thinks he can negotiate through his subordinates, intimidation and the use of police force. We anticipate that the police may engage in violence against us, but we are willing to risk that because we are committed to ending the UW's profiteering from child and slave labor," said Alliance for Democracy member Amanda Dobron. As police arrived at 4 a.m. to remove protesters from the building, approximately 20 resisted arrest.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, a press conference was held outside the Dane County Jail where protesters were being held.

"The chancellor has completely and totally lost my trust — he has lied not once but twice," said ASM representative Jill Cartwright. UW faculty, students and community members throughout Madison attended to show support for the anti-sweatshop protesters.

"They are doing an incredible job — voices are being heard across the nation," said Ald. Barbara Vedder, District 2. "There is a new hope heard at the university keeping democracy alive on campus and in the city."

Several arrested protesters have been released but many are still waiting to be released. Large donations for bail money were contributed by the Center for Campus Organization, Madison Co-op and various other organizations.

Protesters will continue their battle with Ward today at a rally in Library Mall at 5 p.m.