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N.I.(57)5th Meeting

CONFIDENTIAL

21st November, 1957

File No. 11/11/2A

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Board
held in the Board Room, Treasury Buildings, Whitehall
at 3.0 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th November, 1957.

PRESENT:

Lord Bridges (In the Chair)

Professor P.M.S. Blackett
Sir John Cockcroft
Mr. J. Gridley
Sir Philip Morris
Sir Donald Perrott
Professor D.H. Wilkinson

Sir David Brunt
Professor J. Diamond
Professor H.W.S. Massey
Professor R.E. Peierls
Dr. B.F.J. Schonland
Mr. H. Woodhouse
(Item 3)

Mr. J. Grieve Smith (Acting Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sir James Mountford, Professor Mott and Sir George Thomson.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of their fourth meeting.

3. DRAFT ROYAL CHARTER

The Committee had before them a note by the Acting Secretary covering a draft Royal Charter for the National Institute (N.I.(57)21).

THE CHAIRMAN said that the terms of the Charter had been drawn widely enough to give the Institute freedom of action but avoided committing them to tasks they might not wish to undertake.

In discussion of the draft Royal Charter the Board expressed general approval subject to the following amendments:

- (a) The "annual value of £100,000" in paragraph 2 should be raised to £250,000 in order to give the Institute greater freedom to expand its holdings of land.
- (b) References to "nuclear energy" should read "nuclear science".
- (c) Paragraph 9.2(b) should require the Institute to submit their pension schemes to the Treasury for approval but should not make the payment of individual pensions dependent on Treasury approval.

The Board:

- (1) Invited the Treasury Solicitor's office to redraft the Charter to take account of the points made in discussion and submit it to the Chairman.

4. NAME OF THE NEW LABORATORY

Dr. SCHONLANE suggested that the new laboratory should be called the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory instead of the Harwell High Energy Laboratory. The title Harwell was open to the objection that it suggested that the laboratory would be part of the A.E.A., and it would be fitting to name the new laboratory after Lord Rutherford. The Board expressed strong agreement with Dr. Schonland's proposal.

The Board:

- (2) Invited the Chairman to inform the Royal Society of the Governing Board's wish to name the new High Energy Laboratory after Lord Rutherford.

5. APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR INSTITUTE STAFF

The Board had before them:

a note by the Chairman covering a note by Sir Donald Perrott on Factors Affecting secondment of staff from A.E.A. (N.I.(57)18)

a report by the Personnel Committee on Duties and Conditions of Service of Senior Institute Staff (N.I.(57)19)

a note by the Chairman on the Appointment of Senior Staff (N.I.(57)19).

Factors affecting secondment

The Board expressed their general approval of the conditions which would govern the secondment of staff from the Atomic Energy Authority to the Institute as set out in N.I.(57)18. The Board noted, however, that while the Institute had no superannuation scheme of its own an employee who retired while seconded to the Institute at a higher salary than his A.E.A. salary would only get a pension based on his A.E.A. salary. This point would have to be taken into account when the Institute came to draw up its own pension scheme.

The Board:

- (3) Took note with approval of the conditions of secondment from the A.E.A. to the Institute set out in N.I.(57)18.

Duties and conditions of service

The Board then discussed the Report by the Personnel Committee on Duties and Conditions of Senior Institute Staff which set out the duties and conditions of service of the Director of the High Energy Laboratory, the Group Leader in charge of the proton linear accelerator and the Administrative Office/Secretary.

In discussion of Section of A.I. of the Personnel Committee's Report, the duties of the Director, Sir JOHN COCKCROFT and Dr. SCHONLAND said that while it was intended that the Director should devote his main energies to the proton synchrotron, paragraphs 3 and 7 should not, and did not, preclude him from being responsible for other accelerators.

The intention of paragraph A18 was to prevent some later appointment placing someone between the director of the High Energy Laboratory and the Board.

The Board approved a number of amendments to Section A of the Personnel Committee's Report dealing with duties.

Referring to the appointment of a part-time Secretary stationed at Harwell, the Chairman said that he would find it helpful to continue to have someone available in London to assist him in his duties and provide a convenient link with the Director and Secretary at Harwell. The Authority had agreed that Mr. Searby should continue to give him such assistance as he would require and he wished to take the opportunity of recording the Board's thanks to Mr. Searby for his work in helping to set up the Institute.

11/11/6
The Board then discussed part B of N.I.(57)19 setting out the terms and conditions of service of the Director, Group Leader and Secretary.

Although paragraph 3 of Section B.I dealing with the terms and conditions of service of the Director gave him the right to terminate his appointment at three months' notice, it was implicit that if Dr. Pickavance were offered the appointment, he intended to stay the whole seven years. It was suggested that while the proposed salary of £3,000 was fairly high up the professorial scale, the Director would not have the opportunities of outside earnings that would go with an academic appointment and the salary was therefore rather low for the heavy responsibilities involved. It was therefore agreed to raise the starting salary to £3,150. The Chairman said it was his intention that the Director's salary should be reviewed annually.

The first Group Leader would of necessity probably have to come from Harwell but his period of secondment was not likely to be very long. There was no reason why subsequent appointments should not come from elsewhere. The Secretary would initially be working part-time for the Institute and part-time for the A.E.R.E. so that there would be no question of getting anyone from elsewhere.

The Board:

- (4) Approved the Report of the Personnel Committee on Duties and Conditions of Service of Senior Institute Staff subject to the amendments agreed in discussion.
- (5) Instructed the Secretary to circulate a revised draft of the Personnel Committee's report for the record.

Appointment of Senior Staff

The Board amended the draft letter of appointment to the post of Director (Appendix A to N.I.(57)20) to take account of the fact that the laboratory would be called the Rutherford High

Energy Laboratory and the starting salary of the Director would be £3,150. The sixth paragraph should make it clear that the Director was normally expected to attend meetings of the Board, and that the Board would call on him for technical advice in any project with which they might be concerned. It was amended to read:

"The Board expect that in general you should be in attendance at their meetings. You would be brought into consultation in any proposals that might be made by the Board to construct further accelerators for the Institute, and generally be expected to give the Board such technical advice as they may want from time to time."

The draft letter in this form would leave open the question whether the Director would have to advise the Board on any proposals for constructing Research Reactors.

The Board:

- (6) Agreed that the post of Director of the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory with the duties, terms and conditions of service as set out in Appendix A to N.I.(57)20 as amended by the Board should be offered to Dr. T.G. Pickavance, and
- (7) Invited the Chairman to write to Dr. Pickavance accordingly.

The Board understood that Dr. Pickavance would receive a simultaneous letter from the Atomic Energy Authority agreeing to his secondment to the Institute.

The Board felt that nothing further should be done to fill the posts of Secretary and Group Leader until the Chairman had consulted the new Director; but the Board:

- (8) Agreed that, if the Director so wished, Dr. J.A.V. Willis should be offered the post of Secretary of the National Institute.

Sir Donald Perrott said that he would like to inform the Staff Side of the A.E.A. Whitley Council of the conditions of secondment of Authority staff to the Institute and the Board noted this with approval.

6. GENERAL PROGRESS

The Committee had before them a Statement on Progress on the 7GeV Proton Synchrotron by Sir John Cockcroft (N.I.(57)22). He reported that progress was keeping up to schedule. The magnet power supply was causing most concern; the proposals of a Swiss firm were the most attractive technically and might well turn out to be the only acceptable one in view of the time scale.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the General Purposes Committee had met on the previous day. Subject to minor amendments they had endorsed reports by the Project Committee making contract proposals for the main buildings, special motion cranes, the ancillary building, miscellaneous cranes, and mechanical ventilation plant. The Committee had agreed that the Institute should follow the example of A.E.R.E. and show their plans to the Chief Inspector of Factories and invite his co-operation.

Dr. SCHONLAND suggested that the Chief Radiological Safety Officer at the A.E.R.E. should be informed of the project.

The Board:

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- (9) Took note that the Chief Inspector of Factories would be shown their plans.
 - (10) Invited Dr. Schonland to inform the Chief Radiological Safety Officer at the A.E.R.E. of the project.

7. APPOINTMENT OF VISITING COMMITTEES

After a short discussion the Board:

- (11) Invited the Physics Committee to consider and report on the appointment of visiting committees.

8. ANNUAL REPORT

The CHAIRMAN said that their Annual Report was due on 31st March 1958. He suggested that it should consist of a brief statement of progress and should be prepared before that date.

The Board:

- (12) Invited the Chairman to arrange for the preparation of the Institute's first annual report before 31st March 1958.

9. PRESS NOTICE

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11/11/16 (75)

The CHAIRMAN said that when the appointment of a Director had been made it should be announced publicly; there should also be an announcement of their intention of naming the new High Energy Laboratory after Lord Rutherford; and in consultation with Messrs. Chivers Ltd. they should announce the award of the £1 million contract for the main buildings when that was finally settled.

The Board:

- (13) Invited the Chairman to announce the appointment of a Director, the naming of the new laboratory and the awarding of the contract for the main buildings when the necessary steps had been completed.

10. NEXT MEETING

The Board:

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- (14) Agreed to hold their next meeting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th January, 1958.

Distribution:

Lord Bridges
Professor P.M.S. Blackett
Sir David Brunt
Sir John Cockcroft
Professor J. Diamond
Mr. J. Gridley
Dr. H.W. Melville
Professor H.S.W. Massey
Sir Philip Morris
Professor N.F. Mott
Sir James Mountford
Professor R.E. Peierls
Sir Donald Perrott
Dr. B.F.J. Schonland
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Mr. P.J. Searby
Mr. J. Grieve Smith