

S. Willis

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIRECTORS' MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 1964 at Chilton.

Present: Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Mr. D. J. Kinnersley
Professor A. W. Morrison
Mr. H. J. Millen
Dr. J. H. Valentine
Dr. J. A. V. Willis

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY

In Minute 2(a) the words, "though this would not be written into the statement" should be deleted. With this amendment the Minutes were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 4: Outturn for 1963/64: Mr. Millen said that the Accounting Officer had agreed that an over-expenditure of £50,000 of non-capital in the nuclear physics laboratories would be acceptable within a total outturn not exceeding the Vote. Mr. Millen said that there were still considerable uncertainties in the outturn. His best guess was a £30,000 under-expenditure on the whole Institute Vote made up of £80,000 under-expenditure on capital and £50,000 over-expenditure on non-capital. The Treasury's rule that no special effort must be made at the year end to speed up or slow down expenditure was at the moment being re-emphasised. It was agreed that this rule would be followed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BOARD AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON 16TH MARCH

(a) Five-year forecast: Mr. Millen was asked to prepare the amendments to the five-year forecast which the Board had decided upon. It was agreed that although the A.E.A. did not require the detailed five-year forecast until the end of May, it would be advantageous to get it to the Minister's Office quickly because it now seemed possible that there would be a renewed discussion before long between the Minister and the Treasury on the Institute's finances and the Minister should have the latest forecast before this discussion.

(b) Promotion review: It was agreed that as the next step Dr. Valentine should send the draft scheme to the I.P.C.S. and find out whether it could be agreed with little difficulty or whether they wanted a serious debate. If the latter, it would be necessary to carry out the coming review under interim arrangements.

(c) Fellowship scheme: It was agreed that the scheme should be further reviewed in the light of the Personnel Committee's comments and that a paper should be prepared to go to the Board (not necessarily at the next meeting) via the Personnel Committee. The Board paper should give further information including proposed salaries, numbers involved and an outline of the back history. Dr. Valentine would consult Dr. Howlett further about the needs of the Atlas Laboratory.

4. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE HEARING

Dr. Pickavance said that the drafting of a brief for the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 16th April had reached an advanced stage. A draft brief should now have reached Lord Bridges.

5. ESTIMATES - TIME-TABLE FOR PREPARATION

The G.P.C. meeting of 21st July and Board meeting of 22nd September were not well timed for consideration of the Estimates but after discussion it was agreed not to attempt to alter them. For future years G.P.C. meetings in February, May, early September and November, with Board meetings about a month later were desirable.

6. WHITLEY COUNCIL

It was agreed that Professor Harrison would take over the Chairmanship of the Whitley Council after the next meeting. The Official Side membership was also reviewed and it was agreed that it should consist of four from the Rutherford Laboratory, three from the Daresbury Laboratory and Dr. Willis who would act as Joint Secretary.

Mr. Kinnersley said that he proposed to write to the Staff Associations inviting them to discuss arrangements for consultation with the Official Side at Daresbury on local matters. It was agreed to wait until this had been done before telling the Staff Side about changes on the Official Side of the U.I.R.N.S. Whitley Council.

Dr. Valentine said that it was time too to set up the Rutherford Laboratory Whitley Committee.

7. TAKE OVER OF FUNCTIONS BY DARESBUURY

Mr. Kinnersley said that he was preparing a note setting out for information of those concerned the time-table for taking over functions at present carried out by the Rutherford Laboratory for Daresbury.

8. HOUSING OF UNIVERSITY VISITORS

(a) Dr. Willis had circulated for information copies of correspondence with the Treasury and it was agreed that the matter should be dealt with outside the Committee in consultation with Mr. Kinnersley and Dr. Valentine. Dr. Pickavance made it clear that there was certain action which he intended to take, such as converting Chilton House to flats. If the Treasury wanted a long correspondence on principles, this must not be allowed to hold up action on the specific items.

(b) Mr. Millen drew attention to the new situation which had arisen in the Chilton House case where Mr. Drake's Department had demurred at implementing a decision taken at the G.P.C. in Mr. Drake's presence. It was agreed that Mr. Millen should attempt to clear this point verbally; if this looked like being difficult Dr. Pickavance would take it up.

9. AGENDA FOR THE G.P.C. ON 13TH APRIL

Two items were added to the draft agenda which had been circulated: Laboratory Whitley Committee.

TAKE OVER OF FUNCTIONS BY DARESBUURY

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- (a) Nina Finance Statement. (To come early on the agenda.)
- (b) Budgets for travel abroad and for entertainment.

The latter paper would give an analysis of the 1963/64 expenditure, separating if possible visits in connection with the supply of equipment from purely scientific visits. The budget for the coming year might have a forecast analysis on the same lines. Mr. Kinnersley said that work had already been done on these budgets for Daresbury and figures would be sent to Dr. Willis for inclusion in the paper.

10. STAFF CONDITIONS GUIDE

Comments had been received from the Staff Side on the draft guide, handed to them in May, 1963. After discussion it was agreed that any such guide adopted at this stage should embody the fewest possible alterations from that of the Authority. It was also agreed that although the Staff Side were being consulted in its preparation, it would be issued by the Management and not as an agreed document.

It was agreed that Dr. Willis, Dr. Valentine and Mr. Wyatt (on behalf of the Secretary of the Daresbury Laboratory) should undertake further discussions with the Staff Side on this guide.

11. CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1963.

A note on the effect of the above Act had been circulated. It was agreed to take action on the lines there recommended, i.e.

- (a) to produce documents defining the terms of service for non-industrial staff covered by the Act. These would be based on the corresponding documents now in preparation in the A.E.A. Copies would have only a small circulation and should be kept fully amended;
- (b) to produce an Institute Industrial Handbook based on that of the Authority, and
- (c) to issue short individual statements to all employees, industrial and non-industrial.

It was agreed that Dr. Willis should seek the agreement of the Staff Side and Trade Union Side to this course.

J. A. V. Willis

19th March, 1964.