

D. J.A.V. Willis

3/6/64.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIRECTORS' MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May, 1964, at Daresbury Laboratory.

Present: Dr. T.G. Pickavance
Professor A.W. Morrison
Mr. H.J. Millen (for Finance Items Nos. 3, 4 & 5)
Dr. J.M. Valentine
Dr. J.A.V. Willis

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th APRIL, 1964.

The Minutes were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 2 - Scientific Promotion Procedures: Dr. Willis said that letters of appointment had been sent to panel members but that the period of service had not been defined. It was agreed that members would normally be asked to serve for two years, but that some of the initial appointments would be for one year only in order to provide for continuity.

Dr. Valentine said that a revised and more detailed version of the Official Side proposals on scientific promotion procedures had been sent to the I.P.C.S. but that an official reply had not yet been received from them.

Minute 2 - Take-over of Functions by Daresbury. Professor Morrison said he was prepared to accept the recommendations on banking arrangements contained in Mr. Drake's letter of 27th April, 1964.

FINANCE

3. Five Year Forecast.

Dr. Pickavance reported that a meeting had been held in Lord Bridges' office with Sir Frank Turnbull and the two Directors. Sir Frank had agreed that the Institute could submit a forecast with totals above those which the Minister was prepared to back, providing it was made clear that the differences were due mainly to new major schemes. Sir Frank had asked that the A.E.A. should not send a copy of the five-year forecast to the Treasury until he had had an opportunity to study it. Mr. Millen said that the Institute forecast could be submitted in its final form if it were deferred until 27th May, when the Atlas forecast would be ready. It was agreed that this should be done. It was also agreed that the forecast should be sent to the Minister's office without a covering note from Lord Bridges in the first instance, as he was out of the country at present.

4. Estimates for 1965-66

The difficulty of adhering to a time-table which depended on the G.P.C. meeting on the 21st July, was again discussed. It was agreed that Dr. Willis should try and arrange a special meeting on the G.P.C., for the sole purpose of discussing the estimates paper, in the week beginning 31st August.

5. 1963-64 Outturn

Mr. Millen reported that the latest figures were:

Overpend (+) or Underspend (-) on revised grant

		NI/GP/69/12	Now
		£000	£000
R.H.E.L.	Capital	+ 47	+ 60
	Current	+ 29	+ 62
	Total	+ 76	+122
D.M.P.L.	Capital	-118	-112
	Current	- 12	- 18
	Total	-130	-130
N.P.L.s	Capital	-71	-52
	Current	+17	+44
	Total	-54	-8
Atlas	Capital	-49	-49
	Current	-87	-90
	Total	-136	-139
N.I.R.N.S	Capital	-120	-101
	Current	- 70	- 46
	Total	-198	-147

The important figure was the current expenditure overspend at N.P.L.s which had risen to £44,000, and increase of £27,000 since the report to the G.P.C. The main cause was a grant of vouchers at A.E.R.E. which had not been priced at the close of the year and which had therefore been omitted from the tabulation provided by A.E.R.E. upon which forecast outturn had been based. The expenditure concerned was £25,000.

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Mr. Millen had looked closely into the possibility of arranging for this "expenditure" to fall in 1964/65 but had come to the conclusion, after discussion with Mr. Coulbeck and the auditors, that this was not the occasion to try to alter the conventions upon which the non-cash spend was calculated. The revised outturn was within the prediction put late in 1963/4 via the Authority to the Office and accepted by the Accounting Officer.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

6. Procedure

Dr. Willis's note on the method of considering personnel questions in the Institute was discussed. It was agreed that the members of the Official Side of the Whitley Council should be involved in policy formation by holding an Official Side meeting about a week before the meeting of the whole Whitley Council. This would normally be arranged

by having an Official Side meeting immediately after a suitable Directors' Meeting. The first of these would be held after the Directors' Meeting on the 17th June, in preparation for the Whitley Council Meeting on the 25th June. Dr. Willis was asked to notify the Official Side members who do not attend the Directors' Meeting - Mr. Mullett, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Rothwell and an additional member from Daresbury.

7. Redundancy.

Mr. Spurway's correspondence with Lord Bridges was discussed. It was agreed that the matter should be raised at the meeting of the Official Side of the Whitley Council, but Professor Harrison pointed out that nothing had changed as far as recruitment from the A.E.A. to Daresbury Laboratory was concerned, since the original policy had been formed. Dr. Willis was asked to draft a reply for Lord Bridges to send to Mr. Spurway, in response to his second letter, to say that he would not ask another member of the Personnel Committee to deal with the redundancy question. A draft reply to Mr. Spurway's main letter would be prepared after the Official Side meeting on the 17th June; it was agreed that the Official Side did not wish to make the redundancy agreement more precise.

8. Scanners

Dr. Valentine reported that the Staff Side had agreed to discuss the conditions of service of scanners unofficially without raising the constitutional question of who should formally represent them. A preliminary meeting had been held with the Staff Side.

9. Fellowship Scheme.

Dr. Valentine said that no progress had been made on this item since the last meeting but that a revised version of the paper would be prepared for the next Board Meeting on 22nd September. Dr. Pickavance said that discussions were taking place in the Rutherford Laboratory on the employment policy, both for "nuclear physicists" and "applied physicists."

10. Use of Craft Tools

Dr. Willis introduced Mr. Halstead's paper on A.E.A. agreement on the use of craft tools. It was agreed that the I.P.C.S. should be brought in when the matter was raised again by the unions. Mr. Bowles would be asked to deal with the unions at the local Rutherford Laboratory level when discussing this question, so as not to prejudice any future arrangements in Daresbury.

11. Clocking at the Rutherford Laboratory

Dr. Pickavance said that Mr. Bowles was considering the possibility of abolishing clocking at the Rutherford Laboratory. Dr. Valentine was to ask the auditors for their point of view on this matter. If this proved to be favourable, Dr. Pickavance would consult Mr. Mitchell and later, Lord Bridges. Professor Harrison asked to be kept informed of progress.

12. Special Leave for Local Political Activities

It was agreed, subject to negotiations with the Staff Side, that the Ministry of Aviation regulations would be adopted as Institute policy rather than the conditions laid down in Authority General Notice 16/55

POLICY MATTERS.

13. N.I.R.N.S. Grants to Universities.

Professor Morrison's paper was used as a basis for general discussion on the best method of financing university experiments using Institute money. There was general agreement that a committee consisting mainly of university people should be set up to advise the Director of the Rutherford Laboratory on the financing of the experimental programme. The committee should be small and not representative of all universities. Although the committee would be composed mainly of university members, Dr. Stafford would have to play a part in its deliberations. Before such a committee could be set up, the authority of the Board would have to be sought.

14. N.I.R.N.S. Fields of Responsibility.

Dr. Pickavance said that the need for a small executive committee of the Board was now recognised and that Lord Bridges was in favour of it. It would be the ideal body to discuss the matters raised in question 3 of Dr. Willis's paper. Professor Morrison said that there was an urgent need for another meeting on the Joint N.I.R.N.S. - D.S.I.R. panel to discuss the 300 GeV accelerator.

15. N.I.R.N.S. Committee Structure.

It was agreed that this, too, was an appropriate matter for the Executive Committee to discuss and so the topic was not pursued.

J.M. Valentine