

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIRECTORS' MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at State House, Holborn
on 11th March, 1965.

Present:

Dr. A. C. W. V. Clarke
Professor A. W. Merrison
Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Mr. H. Rothwell
Dr. J. M. Valentine
Professor D. H. Wilkinson
Dr. J. A. V. Willis

An apology for absence was received from Professor B. H. Flowers.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 1965, were approved after correction as follows:-

Minute 2, third line of paragraph beginning "It was agreed that", "£2.95 million for Daresbury" should read "£2.925 million for Daresbury".

2. Latest information on the SRC

(a) Organisation

Dr. Clarke outlined the organisation proposed, as he understood it, by Francis and Walker, with six divisions under three directors, Mr. Hosie being the director responsible for the Nuclear Physics and Space Divisions. Professor Merrison said that the Nuclear Physics Board ought to be informed of the proposals for financial delegation to them at their shadow meeting on March 22nd. The Board should also decide what officials they would have in attendance at their meetings.

(b) Conditions of service

Dr. Clarke said that the Government had yielded in principle to the proposition that future entrants to NIRS laboratories should be on AEA conditions of service. At present they were making reservations about Daresbury which appeared to Dr. Clarke to be untenable.

3. Future recruitment and promotion

Dr. Valentine reported on Mrs. Paton's visit on March 9th. It appeared that the Treasury had stipulated Civil Service Commission involvement in recruitment. The directors considered that while some arrangement to link the SRC with a larger body for the purpose of preserving uniform standards was perhaps needed it was not desirable to use the full Civil Service Commission procedure because of its delays and formalities, and probably not appropriate to do so with AEA conditions of service.

On promotion procedure it appeared that Mrs. Paton envisaged a central SRC procedure at higher levels and local laboratory procedure at a lower level, very much on the lines at present used in NIRS, but had not yet worked out a proposal in detail. Much thought would be needed.

On the question of introducing university representatives into promotion panels, on the present NIRS basis, Dr. Clarke said that it was clear that objections would be made from several quarters. However, this matter would need looking at afresh in the SRC context.

With regard to the wish expressed by the Executive Committee that the Nuclear Physics Board should have control of promotion of their staff, a fight was foreseen and it was agreed to raise this point at the Executive Committee.

4. Scientific collaboration with AEA

It was agreed to review the scientific collaboration between the Rutherford Laboratory and AERE and the question of possible payment. Dr. Valentine was asked to convene a working party with AERE and Rutherford Laboratory scientific representatives as well as Dr. Clarke.

5. Five-year forecast

It was agreed that the main thing to concentrate on at the Executive Committee was the division between basic and additional programmes. Professor Marrison indicated modifications and refinements which he would be suggesting in the provision for university capital and current expenditure in the Rutherford basic programme. It was also agreed to reduce the Rutherford computer provision by 100K per year, to add to the university capital plus current which should be added together, not shown separately.

Professor Marrison said that he would look again at the question whether to add some additional current expenditure to the provision for a storage ring in his additional programme.

It was agreed to ask Dr. Adams for the latest figures for the nuclear structure laboratory for the five-year forecast.

6. Future of Directors' Meetings

It appeared likely that there would be increased business for the Directors' meetings in future, taking some of the work which could otherwise only be done by the Nuclear Physics Board.

A Laboratories' sub-committee of the Board, to do this work, was not favoured. A Bristol office of the Nuclear Physics Board was probably needed.

7. Fixed-term appointments

Dr. Clarke said that there would be difficulty in introducing fixed-term appointments on the Civil Service basis at Daresbury. The IPCS would object, both because they appeared to prefer the present Rutherford Laboratory scheme and because they did not represent those Civil Service posts. It was agreed, therefore, that in Daresbury fixed-term appointments for the immediate future the Rutherford Laboratory basis would be used, and the proposal to change to the flat-rate salary scheme, although desirable, should be delayed for a few months.

J. A. V. Willis
Secretary

15th March, 1965.