

Dr. Pickavance

WORKING PARTY ON FUTURE RESEARCH GROUP POLICY

Minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held in Building 424 on Tuesday, June 30th 1959.

Present: Mr. D.W. Fry (Chairman)
Dr. E. Bretscher
Dr. J.V. Dunworth
Mr. L. Grainger
Mr. T.B. Le Cren
Mr. L.B. Mullett
Dr. T.G. Pickavance
Dr. R. Spence
Mr. R.M. Fishenden (Secretary)

1. NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th APRIL (RGP(59) 3)

The note of the meeting held on April 7th was accepted. Mr. D.W. Fry said that a decision had now been taken that GLEEP must continue operation at Harwell. This item should therefore be deleted from Appendix 1.

2. FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE WORKING PARTY

Mr. Fry said he thought it would be useful for the Working Party to consider its future programme. In particular, the Director had received a note from Mr. Dolphin asking that the Working Party should concern itself with future planning at least for a year ahead. In discussion, the following points were made.

- (a) Something like 500 additional staff will be available to the Research Group in 1960/61. Early consideration should be given to the allocation of these posts.
- (b) Several changes have taken place since AERE D/M 361 was prepared. The Working Party required an up-to-date version giving the new allocation of 1959/60 complement by site and by project, and estimates of allocation in future years.
- (c) Further attention needed to be given to future demands on complement arising from existing capital commitments, particularly at Winfrith.

Summing up, Mr. Fry said he thought it was clear that if the Working Party was to do a useful job, it must be supported by a strengthened Secretariat which was able to spend a good deal of time preparing detailed papers. He would discuss the matter with the Director.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Mr. Le Cren went through the list of administrative services set out in Annex II to RGP(59)2, and described the action already taken to put these services out to contract. In discussion it was suggested that too much effort might at present be devoted to detailed costing. This effort was a result of demands made on the Group by the Authority, but it was doubtful whether the figures produced were of value or indeed used for control purposes. Effective control of the allocation of the

Group's effort was exercised almost entirely through control of capital expenditure and of the allocation of staff.

Summing up, the Working Party concluded that little further saving was possible. The direct services to Divisions were already inadequate, and it would be wrong and inefficient to build up the scientific staff at the expense of these services.

R.M. Fishenden

A.E.R.E. Harwell
3rd July, 1959

Circulation:

Mr. D.W. Fry
Dr. J.V. Dunworth
Mr. L. Grainger
Dr. R. Spence
Mr. D.R. Willson
Dr. E. Bretscher
Dr. W.M. Lomer
Mr. L.B. Mullett
Dr. T.G. Pickavance
Mr. R.M. Fishenden
Mr. T.B. Le Cren

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