Dr. Henderson

RE FOUNDATION-FACULTY RELATIONSHIPS

The following are random ideas jotted down as a result of discussions with Link, Elvehjem and others, as well as discussions among ourselves on the above subject.

Elvehjem seemed to favor the idea of an informative brochure for faculty members or a series of brochures. Link feels that any such brochure would be very dangerous and would smack of solicitation. If the brochure, for example, included a "sales pitch" on the subject of "Why Patent?", this would be interpreted as trying to bring pressure to bear on the faculty to bring inventions to WARF.

Link believes that about as far as we can go in publicizing our patent management activities is to, from time to time, get out newspaper stories in the local press such as the two Hunter stories in the Capital Times during December.

Link believes that the University might perhaps annually get out a very short (one-page) statement about the Foundation and make it available to the faculty or at least to new faculty members. Such a statement should wind up by emphatically pointing out that every research worker at the University has complete freedom of action with respect to his inventions and is under no compulsion, pressure or duress to come to the Foundation.

In view of the foregoing ideas on the subject of a brochure, it would seem that any brochure we prepare should be slanted toward the inventor who has already come to us and not to an inventor who has never made contact with us.

Of paramount importance at all times is maintaining the research workers freedom of action.

My idea always has been that the best way of attracting new inventions is to do an outstanding job on the inventions that are turned over to us and then somehow make the information on our successful handling of inventions available to the faculty - as for example, by such articles as those of John Hunter.

From the standpoint of freedom of action, there is much to be said along the line that it is a good thing to have some inventions made at the University handled other than through the Foundation with the inventor continuing to receive research support from the Research Committee. In other words, it is a good idea to have someone like McElvain around at all times.

If someone is to be hired to contact the faculty, it would be much better to have such a man on the University payroll rather than on WARF payroll. Link feels that even if such an individual were on the University payroll, this might be objectionable in that it might be interpreted as interfering with freedom of action.

Elvehjem seems to like the idea of having a full-time individual as perhaps coordinator of research or liaison between the faculty and the Research Committee. With WARF research funds having grown so large, taking on such an individual would greatly relieve the Research Committee of a considerable burden in connection with keeping records, etc. We indicated to Elvehjem that if he feels such a man would be helpful and not objectionable, we would be glad to recommend to the Trustees that the amount of the Foundation's annual grants be increased by a sum sufficient to handle the salary and expenses of such a research coordinator. Elvehjem apparently has had something like this in mind for two or three years but has been hesitant to suggest this plan to WARF. He has been embarrassed

To attempt to be helpful to him, a copy of this memorandum will be sent to him.

Elvehjem is very doubtful whether any attempt should be made to better inform the University administration about WARF's patent management activities (as outlined in memorandum from Hendrickson to Ross dated December 19, 1957). Elvehjem seems not to want to have more information regarding our activities than he already has except that we might, say once a year, give him a list of the active inventions in our portfolio.

It might be worth noting that practically all contacts between individual Trustees including the President and the University administration in the past several years - both in and out of Trustee meetings - have been entirely in reference to matters relating to grants to the University for research, buildings, etc. There has been practically no discussion to our knowledge on the subjects of invention handling, patent management, Foundation-inventor relations, etc.

In discussing what inventions during our 32 year history have been made at the University and taken elsewhere than to the Foundation, the following specific cases should be discussed: McElvain; Tatum; Adkin; Elvehjem; Bachus and Stauffer (penicillin); Babcock; Burgess; Stahmann; Roberts.

At our meeting with Elvehjem in late December, we requested that he attempt to obtain some faculty reaction - for example, from the Research Committee itself - on the pros and cons of either WARF or the University having a staff member, probably an ex-professor, circulate among the faculty, discuss research programs, be available for consultation, etc. We, in the meantime, are to contact some of the more important of our inventor group such as Link, Johnson, Knight,

etc., for their reactions. As noted above, Link has already been contacted.

On December 11, E. B. Fred gave Tom Brittingham the impression that the Foundation perhaps is under staffed. Subsequently, I sought an explanation from E. B. on this point and inquired as to whether there had been complaints that the Foundation has not been giving the faculty good service in the handling of inventions and other matters. E. B. assured me that what he meant in making this statement to Brittingham merely is that if we are to radically change our policy and actively contact the faculty on a broad basis, then we simply would not have personnel to do this. In discussing this subject with Tom, E. B. was not apparently taking any position one way or the other on the desirability of such a policy change.

It seems to me to be a sound principle that any attempts to educate either the faculty or the Research Committee itself should be handled not by the Foundation but by the University.

We assured Elvehjem that should a coordinator of research be employed by the University for the Research Committee, we would cooperate in every way in keeping such individual fully posted on our current activities if this appeared desirable.

Ward Ross

WR:rw

1/10/58