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February 16, 1978

Gentlemen:

The SUPA Trustees Meeting held on February 5, 1978 among other matters discussed the location for our next annual meeting. As you know, Dudley Smith has invited SUPA to join with LES in November at New Orleans. Unfortunately, both the Society of Research Administrators (SRA) and the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) have their annual meetings during that week. Thus, the Trustees intend to poll the membership to ascertain how many intend to attend SRA, NCURA, SUPA or LES. Obviously, the situation is less than clear.

A second issue dealt with the future of SUPA itself. In view of the fact that Howard Bremer of WARF has been elected President as of February 6, 1978 (a 2 year term), viability and direction will not be a problem. However, the long term situation is, unhappily, not as bright.

The SUPA membership has not been able to come to grips with its future and, in particular, with the concept of affiliating itself as a University Section with a larger organization such as LES. Some 2 1/2 years ago I proposed this idea to the LES Trustees at the annual meeting in Phoenix. The concept was enthusiastically received and some of the Trustees foresaw a university section as a model for future sections such as chemical, etc. The benefits to be derived from a university section are obvious. At the time of the Phoenix meeting, there were about 12 university members. Thanks to an earnest recruitment effort during the past year, the university membership may be close to 20. If that figure is approximately correct, I believe it may be apropos to recommend to the Trustees that a university section be implemented. Moreover, I further believe that it is an idea whose time has come.

Accordingly, I hereby request permission to make such a proposal before the Trustees at its next annual

meeting in New Orleans and that such a proposal be placed on the Trustees' agenda.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence Gilbert

LG:bfg
cc: Len Mackey
Niels Reimers
Dudley Smith
LES Past Presidents, Officers, Trustees
SUPA Officers, Trustees