

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

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Office of the Director

July 3, 1985

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Dr. R. E. Hughes, President
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REPOSITORY Associated Univ Inc (WASH. DC)
COLLECTION BOARD OF TRUSTEES & ITS EXECUTIVE
Committee's Mtg Minutes
BOX No. Locked Filing Cabinets in INTERNAL Audit
office
FOLDER _____

Dear Bob,

I appreciate the efforts of the Visiting Committee and its careful review of the Program of the Medical Department. I concur with the general evaluations. In particular they conclude "The committee would like to re-emphasize its support for a strong Department of Medicine at the Brookhaven National Laboratories. As noted above, Brookhaven is a unique and important research facility in this country. A strong Medical Department will be necessary in order to carry out appropriate biologic and medical experiments utilizing the unique resources of this facility. A failure to do this would be a major mistake."

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to outline the Laboratory Management's present views, concerns and plans vis-à-vis the Medical Department.

It is obvious that strong and prompt action is required to correct the critical situation now existing in the Medical Department.

To accomplish this, we have made the following decisions:

1. We shall make every effort to maintain a strong Medical Department where BNL staff and visitors can carry out a variety of research programs of interest to the DOE and for which Brookhaven has unique capabilities and expertise which make us the ideal place to carry out these efforts.
2. Our first priority to accomplish the above is to recruit a new Chairman to fashion a new department, one which will meet the criteria outlined above. A search committee has been active for many months and has presented the Directorate with a list of top notch scientists many of whom, at least at this stage, are interested in the possibility of coming to Brookhaven.

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3. After extensive internal debate and discussion with the DOE program managers, we have prioritized the list. This consists of four names, any one of whom we believe could do a fine job of turning the Medical Department situation around. It is our desire to have a new person named no later than Fall of 1985. Thus, we shall limit ourselves to the names on the present list.
4. Our fall back position, if all turn us down, will be to strongly consider combining in some fashion the efforts of the Medical and Biology Departments perhaps include some parts of Chemistry with Dr. Setlow as Chairman of the combined Departments or possibly as the head of a new large Life Sciences Division.
5. Preparing for these changes, we have done the following:
 - A. To keep a viable Inhalation Toxicology Facility at the Laboratory, the Directors Office is supporting R. Drew at 60% time for two years. Many of the candidates expressed a strong interest in incorporating that facility and expertise into the programs they would institute at BNL if they came.
 - B. We have provided support for the previous Chairman and for the retired, former Associate Director for Life Sciences to give them time to develop their research efforts to the point where they can get support from DOE or from another agency.
 - C. We are working closely with the present Medical Department administration to improve their management practices and make them more cost-effective.
 - D. We are encouraging the strengthening of already strong programs by adding expertise from the Biology and other Laboratory departments and with Stony Brook.
 - E. The Laboratory made a \$500,000 GPP investment over the last two years to rebuild the BLIP facility.
 - F. The Directorate is assisting the Acting Chairman in making the difficult Reduction-in-Force decisions brought on by reduced funding. Our attempt here, of course, is to use this opportunity to help mold the future efforts.

All of the above may be considered a holding action. I want to give the incoming Chairman the maximum amount of flexibility and number of options to form a viable department. Such an approach cannot be carried out too long and that is why we have made Fall of 1985 our decision point.

Dr. R. E. Hughes

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I am very grateful to see that many distinguished scientists feel that the options, the framework and the facilities at Brookhaven continue to make us an attractive laboratory. Although it is obviously a difficult situation it is also a time and a place which can allow a new team to head in new directions and to bring forth once more to Brookhaven a vital, exciting Medical Department. It is my intent to maximize the probability of this occurring.

Sincerely,



N. P. Samios
Director

JH/kpm

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