

June 2, 1959

Dr. L. V. Berkner, President  
Associated Universities, Inc.  
Coliseum Tower  
10 Columbus Circle  
New York 19, New York

Dear Lloyd:

As you know, no formal method for handling requests for telescope time has yet been set up. As chairman of the Astronomy Department, I have been handling such requests, with the advice and concurrence of the other staff members. I feel, however, that I should not, in the absence of specific authority to do so, decide against a particular project if there is not agreement within the staff to this effect. Such a situation is now potentially in the making.

About 10 days ago Eben requested a relatively large amount of telescope time for a Venus radar experiment, and pressed for an immediate answer. He has since withdrawn his request for an immediate decision, and the situation is now in an uncertain state. We may, however, be called upon to make a decision soon.

We have very little information from Doc about the project and its equipment, and what little I have was obtained second hand. I will not, therefore, go into any details here, nor into the relative merits of the proposal. On the basis of what I have been told thus far, I am not in favor of committing, at this time, telescope time to Doc for this project. Findlay and Drake, on the other hand, are both in favor of it.

I am quite willing to handle this problem, and others like it that may arise, if you wish me to do so. However, in this first instance I think it should be submitted to you to decide, or to give me the authority to decide, whichever you choose. Ultimately, I think decisions of this particular nature must always be made by the Director of the Observatory, or by the Chairman of the Astronomy Department if the Director wishes to delegate it to him.

Perhaps you will wish to discuss this particular proposal at the next staff meeting.

Sincerely yours,

D. S. Heeschen

cc: Dr. Struve  
John Findlay  
Frank Drake