

July 25, 1962

Notes on Dave Heeschen as NRAO Director

I talked to Dave on July 10 (after his return from Manchester) re the Directorship at NRAO, especially about his personal desires.

1) He is avoiding answering the question, "would you accept the Directorship if offered?" I believe he doesn't want to make the decision unless there is a positive offer by the Board.

2) He wants to continue research but is doubtful that the Director should engage in a personal research program. An "instrument man" can continue his research if he is working on general facilities for the benefit of the entire Observatory. It's more difficult when individual research involves the instruments in competition with others.

3) Dave knows the problems of the Observatory. He's not afraid to tackle them and has already started.

4) Dave realizes that he is needed as Acting Director for sometime beyond October 1962. This he is willing to do, but not indefinitely. He believes the Observatory shouldn't continue beyond January 1963 with an Acting Director. It needs a boss man who will take the full responsibility. (It is possible to make Dave Director on an interim basis rather than Acting. I don't like this; however, I would rather see him as interim Director if the next Director is not available for a year or two!)

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