

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF

NSF ADVISORY PANEL FOR ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

AND

NSF ADVISORY PANEL ON RADIO ASTRONOMY

July 23, 1956 - Regent's Conference Room

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dr. Robert R. McMath, Chairman

Invitees:

Members of NSF advisory Panel for Astronomical Observatory
Members of NSF Advisory Panel on Radio Astronomy
Members of NSF Advisory Panel for Astronomy

Attendees:

Astronomical Observatory Panel

Dr. I. S. Bowen
Dr. Leo Goldberg
Dr. Robert R. McMath
Dr. Bengt Stromgren
Dr. Albert E. Whitford

Radio Astronomy Panel

Dr. Bart J. Bok
Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein
Dr. John P. Hagen
Dr. Rudolph Minkowski
Dr. Merle A. Tuve

Astronomy Panel

Dr. G. M. Clemence
Dr. Paul Herget
Dr. W. W. Morgan
Dr. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin
Dr. Joel Stebbins

NSF Staff Members

Dr. Alan T. Waterman
Dr. Paul E. Klopsteg
Dr. Raymond J. Seeger
Dr. Frank K. Edmondson

In his opening remarks Dr. Waterman stated that the NSF was ready to proceed with acquisition of the Green Bank site, unless there were serious objections, subject to further protection by zoning, etc. General approval was indicated.

He pointed out that, following the discussion at the July 11 meeting, decision as to construction and management of the radio astronomy facility is now squarely before the National Science Foundation. The general purpose of the present meeting was to consider and advise the NSF as to the most effective means of ensuring the soundness of the programs at the contemplated astronomy and radio astronomy facilities in the best interests of astronomical research and of the astronomers throughout the country.

It was made clear to members of the panels that such panels are purely advisory to the National Science Foundation.

The Panels for Astronomical Observatory and Radio Astronomy were established to advise the National Science Foundation regarding facilities needed in these respective fields, how to bring them into being, and how they might best be operated.

These panels will presumably continue until the facilities have reached the operating stage which would mark the completion of the major functions of the panels.

In the meantime, to assure the promotion and preservation of unity in astronomy, close liaison or alternatively partial or complete merger of the panels would be indicated. It is the consensus of the meeting that unification of this kind is desirable, if not essential, to achieve optimum progress. It is desirable also that the Advisory Panel for Astronomy be kept fully informed of activities being developed in the special Panels for Astronomical Observatory and Radio Astronomy.

Upon completion of the facilities to the first stage—assuming that creation of any facilities beyond this stage will be a continuing process—the research to be carried on under grants from the National Science Foundation, whether in the facilities or elsewhere, would be under the cognizance of the Foundation's Advisory Panel for Astronomy. This panel would continue with increasing responsibility to advise the Foundation on astronomical research.

At present liaison or other coordinating activities by the panels may be directed towards the balanced development of an overall research program in astronomy, including advice on the allocation of funds for construction, maintenance, and operation of facilities and further support of research.

Conclusions

As Chairman of the joint meeting, Dr. Robert R. McMath reports as follows:

"It was the unanimous consensus of the astronomers gathered at that meeting that the National Science Foundation should proceed toward 'unity' in all aspects of both the optical and radio facility plans and operation. It was felt that the timing is, of course, a matter for decision by the National Science Foundation."

A. Marguerite Risley
August 8, 1956

Attachment

Carnegie Institution of Washington
Department of Terrestrial Magnetism
5241 Broad Branch Road, N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

July 25, 1956

NSF Advisory Panel on Radio Astronomy
Minutes of the Detroit meetings held Sunday, July 22,
and Monday, July 23, 1956

Meetings of the NSF Advisory Panel on Radio Astronomy were held Sunday evening and Monday afternoon, July 22-23, 1956, in connection with the special meeting of all NSF astronomy panels on Monday, July 24, for consideration of integrated activity.

An important omission was made in the minutes for the July 11-12 meetings in Washington. Special mention was made by several members of the Panel during that meeting regarding the great importance to the further development of the radio astronomy program which is planned and hoped for the expected National Facility (Greenbank) of the fact that Dr. David Heesch has now joined this activity. His appointment at present is under the AUI, and it is the Panel's urgent request to Dr. Heesch that he retain his connection with the NSF activity whether the management sponsor is to be AUI or some other agency. The important thing for the future is the dedicated interest of a young astronomer like Heesch, and the Panel unanimously supports the proposition that Heesch should be asked to retain his connection and activity for this phase of the NSF activities regardless of momentary delays or interruptions for placing of the final contracts. It is of the greatest satisfaction to the Panel to note that this first appointment concerns astronomical program planning, and not solely the mechanics of construction or equipment.

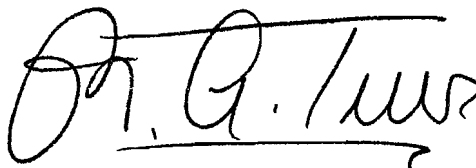
An important question was raised by the U. S. National Committee for the meeting of the URSI (International Scientific Radio Union) in Boulder, Colorado, August 22 - September 5, 1957. Travel funds in the United States for certain foreign delegates with interests in radio astronomy are needed, and must be guaranteed soon enough for these foreign colleagues to make definite acceptances and plans to attend. Requests totaling \$5000 were proposed to our Panel. After detailed discussion of nearly every candidate it was decided that our Panel should request additional funds from the NSF in the amount of \$3000 for this purpose. These funds should be added to the present CIW grant for travel (no overhead) and preferably should come from NSF funds designated for foreign travel. However, if necessary, our Panel agrees that the purpose is sufficiently important to justify allocating \$3000 from the \$150,000 which has been earmarked for radio astronomy operations during this fiscal year. The proposed candidates and amounts are as follows (they may have additional funds from lectures, etc.):

Hanbury Brown, Manchester	\$500
T. Hatanaka, Tokyo	200
Alfred Lovell, Manchester	400
T. Takahara, Tokyo	300
Emile Blum, Meudon	300
Jean Denisse, Meudon	100
Jaako Tuominen, Finland	400
C. D. Ellyett, New Zealand	300

Expected later candidates \$500, total \$3000.

The Panel also approved (four members present--Greenstein not present) the addition of \$1000 as a special travel fund for Greenstein if he finds that he can return from Russia by way of Sydney, and spend a week or so there in September-October of this year. This fund is available in the CIW travel grant balance at DTM.

In accordance with the discussions of the several astronomy panels during the day, our Radio Astronomy Panel in the late afternoon of July 23 voted to approve the shift of the advisory function regarding yearly research grants in radio astronomy (not facility grants) from our Radio Astronomy Panel to the reconstituted "Advisory Panel on Astronomy" for the NSF, beginning with FY 1958 (July 1957). The funds for the present FY 1957 have already been discussed and largely earmarked. It is understood that before this shift occurs appropriate consideration will be given by the NSF to the addition to the Astronomy Panel of members closely familiar with radio astronomy. The present Advisory Panel on Radio Astronomy joined with the other panels in supporting the move toward integration of all astronomy advisory functions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. A. Tuve". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

M. A. Tuve, Chairman,
Advisory Panel on Radio Astronomy, NSF