Memorandum 6L-278

Subject: Group Leaders' Meeting - 24 September 1956

To: Group Leaders and Associated Group Leaders

From: C. W. Farr

Date: 24 September 1956


Agenda:

8-20-A Computer Reliability
8-20-B Shakedown Tests and Program Assembly
8-20-G Checkout
9-17-A Division 6 Activities
9-17-B IBM Coordination Meeting
9-17-C Kingston Computer Operation
9-17-D Compensation of Non-staff Personnel Away from Lincoln
9-24-A CROSSTALK
9-24-B Kingston Visits
9-24-C Recruiting
9-24-D Group 61 Charter
9-24-E IBM Trip
9-24-F Colorado Trip
9-24-G Budget
9-24-H RAND
9-24-I Personnel Replacements
8-20-A  Computer Reliability

Canty reported 82% availability of XD-1 computer last week for Group 67 -- poorer than preceding week -- tape trouble is coming back.

Everett urged Canty to appeal to IBM for improved tape unit operation; he also suggested a meeting with Mills of IBM to discuss specific suggestions for improved maintenance techniques. Weekly agenda.

8-20-B  Shakedown Tests and Program Assembly Checkout

Dodd reported completion of review of plans and schedules -- certain shortcuts are necessary to meet October 1, 1957 schedule to complete phase 1 testing -- requirement to make four tests per week in the June-September 1957 period is not feasible -- manpower available appears insufficient to meet schedule -- expect remedy lies in joint effort of Group 64 and 67.

Kirshner and Cahill are reviewing overlapping Group 64 and 67 work -- joint planning will require a week.

Arnow read the report of last week's program assembly checkout progress -- radar input, tracking, and overhead programs were run -- reliability was down from the preceding week -- the backlog of the computer time demands is at an all-time low due to assistance at Kingston -- no complaint on Kingston service during the first week.

Weekly agenda.

8-20-G  Space

Proctor reported IBM has relinquished basement space and will vacate remaining space next weekend -- discussion of telephone in Buildings B and F indicate both systems nearly saturated -- space program depends on RAND move October 15 -- this date looks uncertain -- Division 6 Conference Room in Building B liberating Building D space for Group 62 -- Dr. Valley discussed use of cafeteria and Director's Dining Room for conferences -- although not secure, the facilities are available, avoiding conflicts -- Dr. Valley also suggested use of A-161 with flexible partition.

Weekly agenda.
9-17-A Division 6 Activities Committee

McVicar is actively selling tickets to Staff members for the Division 6 gathering October 11.

9-17-B IBM Coordination Meeting

(See 9-17-C).

9-17-C Kingston Computer Operation

McVicar reported that operation amounts to 2 hours per night (midnight to 8:00 a.m. shift) -- troubles are not too well attended since maintenance personnel are on vacation -- coordination meeting discussed IBM space -- a ready room 9x18 with furniture is promised October 1 -- more permanent space, 800 to 1,000 square feet, is promised in mid-November -- card room space will be expanded and IBM will move in existing machines; Lincoln will rent machines not on hand -- IBM will supply operators for machines one shift -- Lincoln will have access to machines other shifts.

Morriss reported test cell computers now more useful than XD-2.

Morriss and Dr. Valley discussed problems of RAND vs. Lincoln furnishing secretaries and non-staff people for Kingston operation -- Everett pointed need for one or two Lincoln secretaries at Kingston.

9-17-D Compensation of Non-staff Personnel Away from Lincoln

Everett presented problem to Steering Committee last week.

9-24-A CROSSTALK

Copies of CROSSTALK were distributed before the meeting -- Hazel, Proctor, and Farr explained the objective to improve technical communication within Division with CROSSTALK will be distributed within the Division (and to Group 67
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9-24-A (Continued):
more readable report prepared monthly by editor — extensive discussion ranged from favorable to unfavorable.

9-24-B Kingston Visits
Farr suggested shifting emphasis from Kingston to McGuire Plant visits.

9-24-C Recruiting
Rich outlined recruiting effort by Group 64 and the Personnel Office to obtain programmers -- Dr. Valley inquired about recruit qualifications — discussion pointed out disadvantages of recruiting non-engineers.

9-24-D Group 61 Charter
Israel requested meeting with Everett, Taylor, Dodd, Jacobs to discuss Group 61 responsibility.

9-24-E IBM Trip
Paplan announced trip to IBM September 25 involving principally Division 2 Lincoln people.

9-24-F Colorado Trip
Taylor briefly reviewed last week's trip to Colorado Springs.

9-24-G Budget
Everett reported results of meeting with Fitzpatrick and Fahnestock, September 24 resulting in curtailment of certain funds in Division 6 budget.

ACTION

September 25 with questionnaire to obtain views of staff members.

Agreed.

Conclusion reached that Lincoln recruiting must set high quality standards.

Meeting is scheduled 3:00 p.m., September 26.

None required.

None required.

None required.
9-24-H RAND

Jacobs reported on RAND's position in connection with ADES Schedule Study #4.

9-24-I Personnel Replacements

Proctor requested prompt presentation of replacement requisition when staff member resigns or transfers.

C. W. Farr, Secretary