

Memorandum L-57

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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Date: 3-15-60

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, August 18, 1952

To: Group Leaders

From: Harris Fahnestock

Date: August 18, 1952

Attending: Jay W. Forrester, C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, R. R. Everett,
H. Fahnestock, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, and P. Youtz.

- Agenda:
1. Taylor's trip on vacuum tubes
 2. Whittemore floor space
 3. Engineering reports
 4. Whirlwind I installation, drawings, and spares
 5. Whirlwind II contractor
 6. Use of Whirlwind I by Adam's group
 7. Magnetic drums

1. Taylor's Trip on Vacuum Tubes

Taylor and Frost visited IBM to discuss vacuum tubes and also attended a meeting of the Joint Electronic Tube Council. IBM has a lot of good man power on tube development. They have developed two tubes which seem very satisfactory for computer use. We should follow their program carefully and probably work with them. Frost has been made a member of JETEC with Taylor as alternate. This is a committee sponsored by industry and specializes on tubes for use in computers. Taylor believes it is a very useful organization.

2. Whittemore Floor Space

Wieser asked for the latest information on partitioning additional space for his group in the Whittemore building. Fahnestock reported that the search for funds is now in Cusick's hands. Cusick will be asked for a progress report.

3. Engineering Reports

It was agreed that we have been lax in writing engineering reports on work accomplished. The group leaders should take more responsibility in seeing that our work is adequately reported.

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Some of our reports should be included in the Lincoln system, particularly those relating to the Lincoln program on Air Defense and those expected to receive outside distribution. With that exception, we will continue our report system as in the past. Fahnestock will check the internal distribution of the Lincoln reports.

4. Whirlwind I Installation, Drawings, and Spares

Dodd reported that the installation of the new in-out system will probably stay on schedule. Forrester still hopes that it may be possible to give a demonstration to the Scientific Advisory Board about September 9. Dodd and Wieser are to cooperate in an attempt to see that some detail does not prevent a demonstration which otherwise might have been possible.

We are to be prepared to rebuild Whirlwind I in case of a disaster. It would be preferable to have microfilm copies of all our drawings further away than Building 32 with Lexington suggested as a good possibility. Dodd should check to see that all cabling drawings, terminal schedules and other accessory drawings have all been microfilmed and secured.

5. Whirlwind II Contractor

The group seeking a contractor for Whirlwind II will visit Remington Rand in Norwalk on Tuesday, and Eckert-Mauchly on Wednesday. We have not received word of interest from ETL or RCA since their visit.

Forrester had a general discussion with General Putt on the contract for Whirlwind II. Forrester hopes to select a contractor in time to have a two or three days meeting with the contractor and Colonel Osgood before September 9.

6. Use of Whirlwind I by Adams' Group

We must very soon establish a policy for the use of Whirlwind I by Adams' customers. Adams is to report on the demand in the next few days. We will continue the policy of assigning half the usable computer time to Adams' group and half to Air Defense. Forrester hopes that the total application time may be kept as high as it has been in the last few weeks and preferably higher. Several people present pointed out the large amount of equipment to be installed in the next year might make this impossible.

7. Magnetic Drums

Rich expects delivery of the auxiliary drum by the middle of November. This allows ERA a month for test at their plant. January 15th is the expected delivery date on the buffer drum. McVicar should go to St. Paul as soon as some equipment is running, probably about October 1.

Harris Fahnestock

Harris Fahnestock
Secretary pro tem

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