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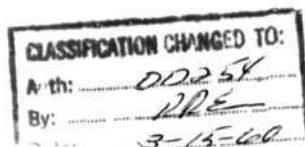
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Digital Computer Laboratory
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, March 23, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: March 24, 1953

Present: Jay W. Forrester, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett,
H. Fahnestock, P. Youtz

- Agenda:
1. Insulation of MTC Planes
 2. Publication Procedure
 3. Status of Cape Cod System
 4. Status of Personnel Freeze
 5. Re-orientation of WWII Program

1. Insulation of MTC Planes

Forrester expressed concern over the possibility of a failure of the insulation in MTC planes. Where wires press together the continual pressure may cause the formex insulation to flow and permit a breakdown. The breakdown voltage for this type of wire should be determined. Investigate the breakdown voltage as a function of temperature, pressure, and time to determine what conditions are dangerous. Also investigate different types of wire. A voltage-breakdown test for MTC planes should be recommended. A non-destructive test may be possible. Brown will undertake the investigation.

2. Publication Procedure

The minutes of the Group Leaders' Meeting of March 16, 1953, stated that Fahnestock or Proctor would issue a memorandum explaining how Lincoln Laboratory Administration Bulletin No. 40 applied to Division 6. This is not believed necessary. The publication procedure outlined in this bulletin will be discussed at the next Friday afternoon tea.

3. Status of the Cape Cod System

Dodd reported that all work is proceeding on or ahead of the initial schedule. Most of the engineering is ahead of schedule. Revised schedules have been prepared which have earlier completion dates for some items. Work in progress is checked against the schedule each week. The first difficulties will possibly occur during the installation period. Possibly unexpected procurement problems may cause some difficulty. The schedule allows what is

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believed to be an adequate time for debugging the equipment. Twenty 304-A display scopes are now ready to install. The first model of the radar-maper is now at Building 3. Four more have been ordered. Division 2 will order an additional eleven mappers. Responsibility for the equipment to be placed at the receiving end of the telephone lines has been transferred to Division 6. There is some uncertainty concerning the budgetary arrangements for this transfer.

Twelve fields of the EKA auxiliary drum are now operating well. The drum is being used to a limited extent when drum engineers are on hand to check the operation. The drum is now kept running all the time except during the weekends.

4. Status of the Personnel Freeze

The budget will prohibit any expansion of the laboratory staff during the foreseeable future. We will be able to hire a few people who are so exceptionally good that they cannot be passed by. Research Assistants, who are not a definite commitment, are a different matter and may be employed in Cambridge. The position of Research Assistants in the Lexington laboratories is different, however.

Fahnestock announced that two non-staff men are being considered for staff positions.

5. Re-orientation of WII Program

The change in the plans of the WII program due to the early participation of IBM has caused a great deal of uncertainty, particularly in Group 62. Forrester may be able to talk to the Groups concerned to explain the new wider scope of the program. The Friday afternoon tea can also be used to discuss vital matters of this type.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

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