

## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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May 22, 1975

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Dear Larry,

Thanks for your response of 13 May re SUPA.

I detect a note of concern on your part that SUPA is not necessarily assured of the support it needs from the university community and I tend to agree with you. Being very frank about it I have heard several adverse comments which do not reflect opinion that there is no need for a SUPA organization but rather reservations concerning the exclusivity of the formulative efforts, especially the self-installation of the founders in firm control past the time when (hopefully) the new members outnumber the founders many fold. It would be encouraging if the present officers would recognize this purely emotional problem which could be very divisive if not serviced immediately. One way this could be done without doing violence to whatever bylaws you have adopted is by a voluntary resignation of all installed officials, effective at the February meeting for the specific purpose of broader based elections at that time. If George Pickar is currently an official such a gesture by him would be most well received by dissatisfied individuals with whom I have talked. I don't mean that in any vicious sense but simply that he does not enjoy the professional reputation that you, Mark Owens or several others possess and apparently his personality is not overly appealing to some.

On a more positive note and on a subject both dear to your heart as well as important to the growth of SUPA, I would like to suggest that there are two obvious and basic educational needs to be served. The one is exchange among the "pros" and the other is at the more fundamental level. I strongly feel that SUPA's success will be measured primarily by its ability to bring the collective scientific resources of the entire university community into the position where major, demonstrable and continuous public benefit is the direct material result at a level far beyond what is being accomplished today.

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The very thought of a single R&D organization which contains the collective creative talent of all research colleges and universities in this country is overwhelming. If SUPA sets as an educational (missionary) goal the development of new and unique mechanisms, as well as using the ongoing ones of today, and the offering of assistance to all in the design and operation of programs suited to the specific situation and resources at each medical school, engineering school, chemistry department, etc., it could marshal one of the least tapped but greatest resources of this country. In turn SUPA itself would grow and prosper and develop the power base to be a most effective force in all other areas in which it has an interest. The challenge is there but it could easily be missed if we start out being satisfied with professional education of our limited few who are already committed to the cause.

Enough!

Sincerely,



E. L. MacCordy  
Patent Coordinator

ELW/fb~