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Requesting that no change be made in the present procedure for the purchasing of equipment and supplies on individual research grants until that faculty primarily involved has had an opportunity to discuss the change sent by Norman McCullough May 16, 1966, to all principal investigators

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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Professor Elizabeth W. Crandall  
Chairman, Faculty Senate  
Quinn Hall, Campus

Dear Liz:

I am attaching, disapproved, the resolution requesting that "no change be made in the present procedure for the purchasing of equipment and supplies on individual research grants until that faculty primarily involved has had an opportunity to discuss the changes sent by Norman McCullough May 16, 1966, to all principal investigators."

I am disapproving this resolution because, in my opinion, it will be difficult to get a consensus on this matter of purchasing. It has been considered quite carefully, and the business office has discussed the changes with a number of our research scientists who have been doing their own purchasing. The notice went only to those faculty members having grants. It is reported to me that, at this time, because the College of Engineering and the Graduate School of Oceanography have their own purchasing agents, it is not planned to include them in the provisions and they were not sent copies of the new regulations; however, if experience proves that the centralized purchasing is desirable, in time, no doubt arrangements will be worked out to funnel purchases from these two Colleges through the other channels.

Frankly, the only way to determine whether this system will work or not is to try it. It is the system followed in most institutions, I believe. We have always taken the position that, though grants from the government are made to individual researchers, management of the monies involved must be handled as closely as possible as monies which come to departments under regular appropriation. Actually, the purpose is to speed up purchasing and to make it more economical. As I've said, the only way to prove whether this centralized purchasing really accomplishes this or not is to try it. I may be wrong, but I suspect that it would be impossible to get a substantial majority to favor the change; but after a trial period, if it works, then I think that we would continue it. If we find that it is not working, then we can find out why and make adjustments and, if necessary, go back to the other system. Under these circumstances, it seems to me, we should not delay in putting the regulation into practice on July 1. Prior to that time, the business office will hold meetings with all those individuals affected, to explain the action and the way it is expected to work. Perhaps it should have been done first, but it is primarily an administrative matter, and the University has a distinct obligation to which we swear, every time we get a grant, to insure that these federal funds are expended properly. To us, that means economically. I can assure you that we will do everything within our power to facilitate, rather than to hinder, the carrying out of the purposes of the grants.

Cordially,

Francis H. Horn
President

May 26, 1966
TO: President Francis H. Horn
FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached RESOLUTION, titled "that no change be made in the present procedure for the purchasing of equipment and supplies on individual research grants until that faculty primarily involved has had an opportunity to discuss the changes sent by Norman McCullough May 16, 1966, to all principal investigators, is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.

3. This RESOLUTION was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on

May 19, 1966
(date)

4. After considering this resolution, will you please indicate your approval, disapproval or other comment and return the original copy, completing the endorsement below.

May 23, 1966
(date)

Elizabeth C. Crandall /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: The University President

1. Returned.

2. Approved

May 25, 1966
(date)

President

/s/

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

May 30, 1966
(date)

Elizabeth C. Crandall /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Form approved 11/65
Note: At the November 17, 1966, meeting of the Faculty Senate Resolution No. 108 was brought to the floor for reconsideration.

It was moved that no further action be taken at this time. The motion was carried by the Senate. (Refer to Minutes of meeting of November 17, 1966, page 3.)