

UNIVERSITY CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Minutes of the Executive Committee

March 17, 1960

Washington, D. C.

The fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research was called to order by Chairman Houghton on March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) 1959 at 10:15 a.m. in Room 13 at the National Science Foundation Building in Washington, D. C.

Present were the following members of the Executive Committee: W. A. Baum, H. R. Byers, E. W. Hewson, A. R. Kassander, D. F. Leipper, P. S. Macaulay, T. F. Malone; also present, ex-officio H. G. Houghton, Chairman and M. A. Farrell, Secretary-Treasurer.

Chairman Houghton stated that this meeting had been called in order to review the status of obtaining a director. He pointed out that James Van Allen had finally declined.

1. AD. HOC. COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee met in New York City on January 5 with all members present. The position of the Ad. Hoc. Committee was clarified by the three members of the Nominating Committee, whose names had been proposed for director, eliminating themselves from consideration, thus making the Ad. Hoc. Committee unnecessary. Consideration of the status of the Ad. Hoc. Committee led to the following:

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Ad. Hoc. Committee to the Nominating Committee appointed at the Washington meeting in August of 1959 be terminated. Motion carried.

## 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Houghton called on Dr. Byers as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for his report. Dr. Byers reported that with Van Allen's decision not to accept the position of director, it became necessary to consider other possible candidates.

The list of names originally suggested for consideration as director were reviewed. This review and discussion led to the names of the following four men being given top consideration for director. In order to move as rapidly as possible in learning whether these possible candidates were interested in being director it was decided who should contact whom. The names of these four possible candidates and the UCAR contact man as shown below are not necessarily in a priority order.

1. T. F. Malone	-	H. G. Houghton
2. W. O. Roberts	-	A. R. Kassander
3. M. Ference, Jr.	-	H. R. Byers
4. H. Friedman	-	H. R. Byers

In accordance with the above plan of action Dr. Houghton sounded out Dr. T. F. Malone as to his interest in being nominated as director. After several weeks of consideration Dr. Malone indicated he was not a candidate for the position. Dr. Byers upon discussing the matter with Michael Ference Jr. found that at first he was interested but he finally decided to remain with the Ford Motor Company. Horace Byers talked with Herbert Friedman by phone in a preliminary way and has a date to visit with him about a director for UCAR at 5 p.m. today.

Dr. Byers asked A. R. Kassander to comment following his visit with W. O. Roberts regarding his interest in the position of director. Dr. Kassander stated his evaluation of his visit was that W. O. Roberts a) Is interested in becoming director of UCAR, b) Recognizes the difficulties, c) Believes he can get along with Congress, d) Attached a number of strings to his acceptance.

3. W. O. ROBERTS AND THE HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

Walter Orr Roberts is primarily an astronomer. He received his B.S. degree from Amherst and the Ph.D. in Astronomy from Harvard. His Ph.D. thesis had to do with the development of a coronagraph. As a result of this achievement, Harvard established the HAO at Climax, Colorado. Later Harvard and the University of Chicago managed it jointly. It then became a private corporation with the presidents of the two institutions becoming members of the Board, but now there is no Harvard representation. Roberts is now Head of the Astrogeophysics Department of the University of Colorado. This department was established after HAO was initiated. Roberts raised one million dollars to set up the private corporation. The offices of HAO are on the campus of the University of Colorado. Two members of Roberts' staff receive one-half their salaries from the University. None of the fixed assets of HAO exist on land owned by the University of Colorado. All assets are owned by the private corporation.

4. W. O. ROBERTS VIEWS RE. UCAR

A letter written by A. R. Kassander to the other members of the Nominating Committee following his visit with W. O. Roberts, the contents of which had previously been approved by W. O. Roberts, was read to the Executive Committee. It is understood that some of the comments in the letter were prepared at the time W. O. Roberts was a Trustee-at-Large of UCAR following the publication of the Blue Report. This letter, which appeared to represent a preliminary set of views of Dr. Roberts, is not made a part of these minutes, but it formed the basis of much discussion in the meeting.

Chairman Houghton thanked Drs. Byers and Kassander for their report and stated that only one out of five candidates approached thus far has expressed an interest in becoming director of UCAR, although the contacts with Dr. Friedman to date have only been of a preliminary nature. He asked for comments about W. O. Roberts' views as presented in Kassander's letter.



In the discussion that followed, it was made clear that many of the points in Dr. Roberts' letter are incompatible with the philosophy of UCAR.

It was agreed that W. O. Roberts doesn't have a closed mind on some of his views and it was recognized that there would be a need for the Nominating Committee to meet with him in order to determine whether the gaps that exists on differences in viewpoints could be closed.

The following opinions were expressed: 1. The only way W. O. Roberts could become director of UCAR is for him to sever his connections with HAO and the University of Colorado. 2. An alternative suggestion was that since the director is Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation he could manage HAO separately. 3. NSF would undoubtedly want HAO as a separate entity. 4. W. O. Roberts doesn't anticipate that HAO would be financed by NSF through the contract for the Center.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Nominating Committee visit with W. O. Roberts and determine whether his philosophy and viewpoints can be altered in order that he can serve as director in accordance with the philosophy and goals of UCAR, thus determining whether his name can be placed in nomination as director at the April meetings. Motion carried.

##### 5. INTERIM DIRECTOR

There was some discussion of the appointment of an interim director in order to get UCAR on the road. It was suggested also that perhaps one of the three members of the organization whose name had been mentioned as possible directors could take a year's leave of absence and could assume the position of interim director. The consensus on this point was that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages and that the interim appointee probably would mark time and the assembling of a strong scientific staff would be difficult under such an arrangement.

The question was raised whether UCAR was unusually slow in obtaining the services of a director compared with other such ventures. It was felt that perhaps we were not moving as rapidly as would be desirable and this undoubtedly resulted from not having had the financial support other such ventures have had.

6. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS - SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

It was reported that the House Committee on Science and Astronautics has appointed a fourteen-man Science Advisory Committee to meet with them twice a year and discuss items of pertinence to the Committee. The representatives in meteorology are Professor S. Petterssen of Chicago and Dr. T. F. Malone, respectively the past and present Presidents of the American Meteorological Society. It was stated that the House group felt they needed contact with the science community and had appointed the advisory committee for this purpose.

There was some discussion whether an effort should be made to have a resolution introduced in the Congress in support of the goals of UCAR. This matter was left in the hands of the chairman for further exploration.

7. NSF CONTRACT

Paul A. Barron, Gerald Greenwood and Dr. Earl Droessler of NSF met with the Executive Committee and reviewed a preliminary draft of a contract which they were preparing. This was in no sense a meeting to negotiate a contract. The fact that the Executive Committee of UCAR was in session and that NSF had a rough draft of the document suggested that it would be mutually helpful if the Executive Committee expressed their general impressions. A number of comments were made by UCAR representatives, the main one being that the philosophy of UCAR as a management group was not reflected in this preliminary contract. It was pointed out that a group of universities had organized as UCAR to do a needed job in atmospheric

research. The more stringent the contract procedures the less need there is for universities to participate. Interest on the part of the universities will be determined by the role they are given. If they are only advisory, there is no need for UCAR. Mr. Barron indicated that the present draft will be reworked by many individuals and UCAR will have an opportunity at a later date to review it and suggest changes.

#### 8. SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

T. F. Malone indicated that members of Congress were becoming quite concerned with the number of agencies appearing before them for funds for research and development in the atmospheric sciences. Congressmen have the impression that funds were being provided in a number of areas and that there was a need for coordination in the use of such funds. The question arose as to whether there was a need for a national policy on atmospheric research at administrative or executive levels. Without such a statement it is felt that line items in future budgets may encounter hard going. He indicated that this had been explored with sympathetic and knowledgeable people such as Dr. Klopsteg, Dr. Beckler and Dr. Bronk. They felt that a statement or a resolution in Congress would be helpful in that the present support for UCAR is not adequate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

M. A. Farrell  
Secretary-Treasurer