

November 4, 1978

Dear Dr. Lehr,

I believe the next steps in regard to the propriety of obtaining support for research from the Central Intelligence Agency is to request Dr. Wasserman to withdraw this application. Failing that, it is advisable to obtain the opinion of the Faculty Senate.

1. The Research Committee sees this issue as a sensitive one, and appears evenly divided as to the propriety of the College accepting such funds.

2. The Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics acted as if the issue was a sensitive one and obtained prior permission from the Trustees, the President and the Dean - steps that are unusual.

3. Regardless of the financial needs of the investigator, the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics exercised poor judgment in insisting upon an immediate recommendation. By not allowing the usual processes of decision to take place, he precipitated an issue which is divisive. The same results probably face the College as soon as the public (i.e., the Faculty, the students, and the community at large) become aware of such a request, whether or not it is funded.

For these reasons, I recommend that the whole faculty have an opportunity to participate in the judgment, thereby accepting responsibility for the conflicts that may ensue. The approved motion and the sense of the discussion may be sent to the Dean with a request that the problem be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Senate.

Incidentally, I regret that Dr. Wasserman and Dr. Freedman were allowed to participate in the Committee's discussions. Because the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics exhibited an insensitivity to this issue it may be advisable for the Chairman of the Research Committee to share the Committee's discussion with Dr. Weinstein, who, I fear, may be under misapprehensions regarding the basis for the decision of the Committee (notably, his awareness that some members of the Psychiatry and Neurology Departments do not share his scientific views). It would be regretted if Dr. Wasserman's misjudgment of motives were to color his reports to Dr. Weinstein, and that the Research Committee be considered as infringing on Dr. Weinstein's academic freedoms.

Many thanks; and I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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