

March 11, 1977

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Dear Dick:

I got my copy of the letter you sent to Addison regarding NSF-URP developments. It got me to thinking that

1. MACTLAC membership ought to ~~be~~ get involved in some way - as in the form of a resolution;
2. It's a long way to October & too much can happen by then.

With this in mind, I had the following idea: each spring there is a secretary-treasurer report mailed out including the minutes of the last meeting, etc. Perhaps we could include in that mailing a copy of the memo you sent me; and a mailing card upon which each member could ask that his name be included on a resolution or petition refuting the NSF arguments and asking for continued funding of undergraduate research. This resolution could be printed on the return card. It would probably not be "officially" MACTLAC originated, but would be useful nonetheless.

It seems to me the petition could point out the potential ability of imaginative scientists in solving immediate and long term energy, medical, and other technological problems society faces; point out the history of liberal arts colleges ~~and~~ educating scientists; and urge a national policy which would make better use of scientific personell in the future.

I'm sure that as chairman, you can handle the boring details. I'm just an idea man . . . Maybe send copies to Carter (or Ford or whoever's president right now . . . someday I've got to get more aware politically). I think, seriously, that the NSF premise that research at small schools necessarily leads to More scientists is at fault: Better, certainly; more, not necessarily. NSF's attitude is, we both know, extremely short-sighted and bureaucratic-immediate-return-cost-benefit-analysis; self-deceiving efficiency-at-the-big-school attitudes. Right?

We ~~are~~ got to communicate this as a group, in some capacity, to our congressmen and to Carter!

I'll quit before I start hopping onto soap boxes. Have a pleasant spring and summer. See you, hopefully, at Monmouth.

Michael J. Collins
Asst. Professor of Chemistry