

WABASH COLLEGE  
CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

April 9, 1953

Dr. Ben T. Shawver  
Monmouth College  
Monmouth, Illinois

Dear Ben:

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to reply to your last letter. I hope that the material which I am enclosing is not too late to be of some use to you in the preparation of your paper for the chemistry section of the Illinois Academy of Science next month.

There are enclosed the summaries of the group discussions at the Monmouth Conference. Over the months I have been hoping to find the time to go over these and edit them from a common viewpoint. Unfortunately I have been so busy with many extracurricular commitments that I have not accomplished it. Right now I am wondering about whether these ought to be mimeographed and distributed to those who attended the conference last November. I think that it might be helpful if they were but would not be too unhappy if you ruled against it.

Our Association is definitely committed to a meeting at the Institute of Paper Chemistry on the weekend of October 17. Harry Lewis is already making many of the necessary arrangements. There is still, of course, the great problem of whom we will invite to this meeting. I have had all sorts of communications from Lewis and ideas also from the other members of the executive committee with two exceptions. I hope before this "vacation week" is finished that I may get around to organizing this material and getting it on its way to you and the other members of the executive committee.

I think that your talk before the Illinois Academy it would be well to indicate that it is the present idea chiefly to limit this Association to the liberal arts colleges which are privately supported in the seven state area. We may go a little afield from this but I don't think we can go too far and still have the intimate and valuable sort of a conference which we envisage.

Harry Lewis reports there is great interest in our Association wherever he goes and people are clamoring for invitations to attend. We do have a real problem on our hands in establishing the criteria for membership.

In the various communications which I have sent out, I have never heard from the Missouri and Michigan representatives on the executive committee. I wonder if they are completely disinterested or just extremely poor correspondents. What do you think we ought to do about these two men?

Thank you for your congratulations on our receipt of the Du Pont money. Allow me belatedly to extend Wabash's congratulations to Monmouth on its Du Pont Grant as well as on the renewal for the coming year of the Standard Oil Grant. We have not as yet exactly decided how we are going to spend the money except that we know it is not to be used for general maintenance. Possibly we plan to spend about \$500 for additional faculty travel, \$500 for the staff who want to do research in the summer time, \$500 to the library and \$1,000 for new equipment. This is very tentative and may be changed. I hope you can resist the pressure of your administration to use the money for maintenance purposes.

I am sorry that I have not had more time this year to devote to the affairs of the new Association. Unfortunately I have had an undue amount of committee work both on and off the campus pertaining to college affairs. It has been so bad that in some weeks I have been to as high as seven or eight committee meetings lasting anywhere from fifteen minutes to three hours. I hope that this is nearly at an end. I have also had to travel away from the campus six weekends for a Ford Foundation Study in which Wabash College participates. This week, which is supposed to be vacation, was half taken up by our honor scholarship program. Today we are interviewing a new prospect for our staff and by tomorrow I will have one day left of "vacation" to try to clean up my desk.

Please give my best regards to the whole gang at Monmouth College. Tell Bob Johnson I will try to answer his questionnaire within a day or so and I hope that I will be getting some more stuff about the Midwest Association on to you within a week.

Most cordially yours,

*Ed*

Edward L. Haensch  
Professor of Chemistry  
Chairman of the Department

ELH:ems