

Notes on Watson Meeting at MACTLAC, October 8, 1976, Hope College--

Approximately twenty persons attended the session entitled "Faculty Development Programs in NSF" at which Dr. Robert F. Watson was the presenter.

Dr. Watson began by noting that the budget for the NSF Science Education Directorate for Fiscal Year 1977 is \$69 million; the budget for FY 76 was \$62.5 million. He then provided a specific description of the administrative structure of the Science Education Directorate.

Dr. Watson noted that he believes all of the programs operated from the Science Education Directorate have faculty development aspects to them, so he did not seek to speak only about the "faculty development programs," but also provided information about a number of the programs, such as the Undergraduate Research Participation Program, the Student-Originated Studies Program, and the Secondary School Student Science Training Program. Brief descriptions of all of the programs are included in a "Guide to Science Education Programs for Fiscal Year 1977," which is available from NSF. You can obtain this booklet from the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., 20550.

For those of you working with preparation of SOS Proposals, Dr. Watson indicated that a copy of the "book" of Project Directors' Reports can be obtained from the NSF. You may need to pay some duplication fee for this service, but it is relatively nominal.

A couple of questions were asked regarding the Program EHVIST (Ethical and Human Value Implications of Science and Technology) concerning availability of funding for small-scale curriculum revision projects. Dr. Watson noted that no funds are available for this purpose at the present time and there are no plans as far as he knows to go in that direction.

Regarding faculty development per se, Dr. Watson stated that there are three programs which are oriented in this direction. The Chautauqua-Type College Faculty Short Courses (information about these courses may be obtained by writing Chautauqua-Type Short Courses, Box B, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036), administered for the National Science Foundation by the AAAS, has been a very effective program, spending somewhat less than \$1 million per year and touching several thousand faculty members each year. Dr. Watson noted that in addition to participation in the courses offered, if you are interested in developing a course to be offered through the Chautauqua series, you should also let this be known.

The Science Faculty Professional Development Program is a second faculty development program and is designed to replace the Science Faculty Fellowship Program. You can obtain more information about

it by requesting Brochure SE 77-28, Science Faculty Professional Development Program, from the NSF. The booklet should be available very soon and the deadline for receipt of applications under this program will be January 7, 1977. Through this program, support will be provided to strengthen science faculty research and teaching capabilities in areas of national needs. Grants will be awarded competitively on the basis of demonstrated aptitude for research or teaching related to national needs, and on a showing that the proposed activities would enhance such capabilities. Grantees will receive stipends to allow them to undertake from three to twelve months of research or advanced study, plus a modest activity-support allowance. Competition is open only to U.S. citizens or nationals.

Finally, the Science Teacher Training Program is a third faculty development program. This program will replace the High School Science Teacher Institutes of a few years back. Four million dollars is being provided for this program for the fiscal year 1977. Additional information about the program can be obtained by requesting Brochure SE 77-27, which will be available by November. The primary objective of the program is to improve subject-matter knowledge of teachers of science and mathematics in Grades K through 12.

Dr. Watson also spoke briefly about the CAUSE (Comprehensive Assistance to Undergraduate Science Education) Program. He noted that the maximum allowable for three-year projects under the new guidelines will be \$250,000. He further observed that last year 650 proposals were received and approximately 50 grants were made.

Additionally, Dr. Watson described the LOCI (Local Course Improvement) Program that will provide small grants with more "focus" than that possible with a CAUSE proposal. National impact is not a necessary factor but it would help in making LOCI grant applications competitive. Dr. Watson told the group that the September 27 issue of Chemical and Engineering News contains an interesting report about a project funded through this program.

The session ended with a question-answer period in which Dr. Watson answered a number of NSF "nuts-and-bolts" type questions about the several NSF Programs.