

February 6, 1968

MACTLAC Members
Midwest, U.S.A.

Dear Colleagues:

In March of 1967 Dr. Jack Coutts, then President of MACTLAC wrote to Dr. Leland Haworth, Director of the National Science Foundation, and asked a number of questions related to our concern about the level of support for research projects in liberal arts colleges. His letter was promptly and extensively answered by Dr. Thomas D. Fontaine, Associate Director (Education). In September, 1967, President Coutts replied to NSF with his analysis of the situation.

There has been considerable interest among our membership for information about this exchange, and at the Evansville meeting last October we agreed that one copy should be mailed to each member college. In order to reduce some of the bulk, while still preserving the essence of the report, I have done some modest editing, and the enclosed material is thus slightly abridged. Please circulate this among the members of your department, discuss the situation, and notice that Dr. Fontaine provided the name of Dr. Phillips should you want to write to NSF for further information or to make comments of your own.

On a completely different matter, I should like to solicit your comments and recommendations on the work of the Advisory Council on College Chemistry, AC₃. I have begun a three-year term on the Council, and at present we are trying to take a hard look at methods by which AC₃ can increase its effectiveness and value to college teachers of chemistry. For one thing, will you please let me know with complete frankness just what impact AC₃ has so far made on you, your department, your program? Are you and your colleagues reading and using the AC₃ publications, or are they mostly being "filed"? What do you think is the main purpose of AC₃? What is its weakness?

As you consider both the NSF material and the AC₃ questions, I know you will remember that if the voice of the liberal arts colleges is to be heard, then individuals (you) in those colleges must speak up. I do look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Ramette
MACTLAC President, (1968)