

The American Physical Society

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Bill Havens
Dr. Who contact
Division
one
committee
member
report
from Division

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MEMORANDUM

TO: A. Wattenberg, ^{*William A.*} W. Fowler, G. Holton, G. Goldhaber,
L. Brown and M. Klein

FROM: Lewis M. Branscomb

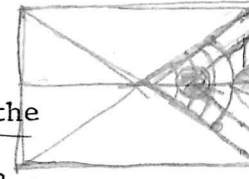
DATE: November 8, 1979

SUBJECT: Division of the History of Physics

"Thackeray - Ebert
ISIS -
Historical studies
of Physical Science

The APS Council received a proposal to create a division of the History of Physics, and although the secretary has not yet actually received the petition signatures, we discussed the matter and adopted the enclosed resolution as a means of moving the ball forward.

Marty Klein
A 112



I would greatly appreciate your willingness to serve on an ad hoc committee of the Council to be chaired by Al Wattenberg, to implement the Council's request. You will notice that the Council suggested that a forum as well as a divisional structure be examined. During discussion, a number of issues were raised that need study and clarification.

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One has to do with relationships with other organizations such as AAPT (which Nina Byers believes would have quite an interest in such an organization), the history of physics library at the American Institute of Physics, the History of Science Society and the American Astronomical Society.

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We also request that you look into the expectations that might attend to the formation of a division or forum, such as the question of whether publication services are anticipated and the like. A card addressed to Bill Havens is enclosed on which I hope you will indicate your willingness to serve.

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I hope very much that the committee can conduct its work expeditiously and primarily by telephone or letter, and that at least a preliminary report can be made to Council at its meeting on January 20, 1980.

xc: L. R. Bickford
H. Feshbach
W. W. Havens, Jr.

well. Contact AAPT

enc.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT COUNCIL MEETING - NOVEMBER 2, 1979

Resolved:

that an ad hoc committee be appointed to advise the Council on the purpose, need and appropriateness of the APS establishing a Division or a Forum on the History of Physics.