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Biology - Chemistry

for file

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Biology

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December 19, 1933.

Dear Dr. Millikan:

I enclose herewith notifications of two recent actions of The Rockefeller Foundation: (1) appropriating the sum of \$50,000 for research in biology during 1934 and (2) appropriating the sum of \$10,000 in support of the research work in chemistry of Professor Linus Pauling during the year beginning July 1, 1934.

You will doubtless recall that the proposal for the support of research in biology under Professor T. H. Morgan contemplated a request for the sum of \$50,000 yearly for three years. In connection with this request, it has been our understanding that, when Professor Morgan came to the Institute, it was expected that the program in biology was eventually to receive a budget of \$100,000 a year, but that present circumstances have not permitted the contemplated expansion of the work to that level. Professor Morgan indicated to me his confidence that support for the work in biology is undoubtedly to be forthcoming from normal sources, once the general situation improves. In particular, Professor Morgan felt that there would be no hesitation on the part of the Institute to appoint, at this time, a physiologist were support from outside sources available for this purpose for the three-year period in question. Had it

been possible for us to recommend the grant on the requested terms, we would have done so with the understanding that the general purpose of the grant was to make presently possible, while Professor Morgan's leadership is available, the expansion of the work to a point approximating that originally contemplated, and we would have felt it necessary to emphasize the fact that this procedure was definitely based upon the assumption that the Institute would carry on from that point. Thus, in particular, if a physiologist had been appointed to your staff under the requested arrangement, we would have definitely understood that responsibility, beyond the three-year term for the appointment, lay definitely with the Institute.

Subsequent to my discussions with Professor Morgan at Pasadena, it has been judged unwise that the Foundation obligate itself, for the present at least, for more than a year in advance. We have, therefore, been faced with a somewhat difficult situation. We were very anxious that the development not be handicapped by the one-year restriction. The present appropriation has, therefore, been made with the understanding that not to exceed \$30,000 shall be for use during 1934 and that not more than \$20,000 shall be reserved by the Institute to provide the salary of a physiologist during the years 1935 and 1936. It is necessary to emphasize that the Foundation cannot assume any obligation, legal or moral, beyond the terms of the

present grant; but I am glad to assure you of the interest of the officers in this work and of our willingness to consider, at a suitable time next year, the question of a further appropriation. It would be our present hope that we would be in a position to recommend the grant of an additional \$20,000 for the year 1955 and, in due course, a second additional grant of \$20,000 for the year 1956, thus eventually bringing the yearly average over the three-year period to the amount originally requested. I am sure you will understand that it would be entirely contrary to the letter and spirit of the restriction under which we are at present operating to indicate that it is our "intention" to make these additional grants; we can merely state that it is our present hope that it will be possible for us to make such recommendations. I should also emphasize the fact that these informal and unofficial expectations do not extend beyond a three-year period. That is, it is our understanding that, if it prove possible to continue this support, as described above, for the three-year period, the Institute accepts full responsibility from then on. I quite realize that this last statement is somewhat anomalous. It may be confusing to insist that we accept no responsibility beyond three years when we, in fact, accept no responsibility beyond the present grant. The point, however, is that the present grant does make possible the three-year appointment to a major staff position.

Your request for assistance in connection with Professor Pauling's researches covered a three-year period. For the reason explained above, an appropriation has been made for use during the academic year 1954-55. In connection with this request, however, I do not feel that it is proper for me to go as far as I have on the Morgan grant; I can merely state that it is not possible for us to accept any responsibility beyond the period covered by the present grant.

I wish to assure you of our great interest in the development of research at the California Institute of Technology and of our pleasure in being able to cooperate.

Very cordially,

Dr. R. A. Millikan, Chairman
Executive Council
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena
California

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