

for mailing

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*Pending
grant 200
Dartmouth College
Artificial intelligence*

DEC 28 1955

November 30, 1955

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

I am sorry it is taking so long to get the group together here for a discussion of the proposal for support of the Summer Conference on brain models. Now I am afraid I have to say that it does not seem possible for us to support a program on quite the scale originally proposed. Do you think it would interfere with giving the idea a fair trial if it were trimmed down to something like half its present cost, or to name a round figure, about \$7,500? If so, we would be prepared to ask our committee for formal consideration of the proposal and in this connection, would need a formal letter from some administrative officer at Dartmouth testifying to the college's willingness to receive and administer the funds.

I hope you won't feel that we are being overcautious but the general feeling here is that this new field of mathematical models for thought, though very challenging for the long run, is still difficult to grasp very clearly. This suggests a modest gamble for exploring a new approach, but there is a great deal of hesitancy about risking any very substantial amount at this stage.

Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Morison, M.D.
Director for Biological and
Medical Research

Dr. John McCarthy
Department of Mathematics
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RSM:bjw