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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Central Administration
Office of the
Executive Vice President
for Administration

3835 Holdrege
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

November 11, 1977

Director of the Computer Network

402-472-3763

Mr. Raymond J. Woodrow
Society of University Patent Administrators
Princeton University
P. O. Box 36
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dear Ray:

As I am sure you are aware, the number and varieties of issues surrounding the protection of computer software have grown even since our January meeting at USC. Personally I have had conversations with most of the major computer corporations as well as a number of universities who have been wrestling this problem. Bob Linnell also has been in correspondence with certain university-related individuals in attempts to ascertain what policy exists concerning the administration of the various intellectual property rights associated with the creation of computer materials.

I am at the point now where I think that SUPA's interest would be best served by my bringing together a half a dozen individuals to draft a "state of the question" document that would outline the various ways the computer programs are being managed in universities that we have contacted thus far. I would suggest that the meeting be held in the Chicago area to minimize the total air fare costs involved. Let me tell you about the people I have in mind inviting and the reason for inviting them. Dr. Peter Roll, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota, has been very constructive in criticising my earlier papers in this area as well as sharing with me the University of Minnesota's policy on university sponsored educational material. Dillon E. Mapother, in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Illinois, has been involved in the development of three different documents relating to the University of Illinois involvement with the PLATO/CDC/NSF effort. His experience would be invaluable. Dr. John J. Hirschbuhl, from the Computer Assisted Instruction Center at the University of Akron, has had considerable experience in developing Akron's policy which is essentially the copyright side of the question. Mr. Jim Hogg, General Counsel of Control Data Corporation, can present both a legal view as well as the practical side of what the corporate view might be as we can expect it in the future. From the independent computer/legal types we can ask either Roy Freed, Susan Nycum, Bob Bigelow or Mike Duggan. I would prefer to make that choice later. I think you would best be able to decide who the official representative or representatives of the SUPA organization ought to be and I would leave that up to you. I also believe that Norm Latker's advice would be invaluable; however, I do not know what his ability to formally or informally participate in such an effort would be. I believe that if I prepared a preliminary outline and perhaps even a draft for the group, that we could accomplish this first step in a solid eight hour day. I would, therefore, estimate the cost of such a meeting to be as follows:

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\$ 35.00 for each room
\$175.00 round trip air fare
\$ 20.00 food and miscellaneous expenses for
each person involved

If seven people agreed to attend, the total cost would then run around \$1600. With this preliminary investment on SUPA's part, I believe that the finalization of a suggested framework for handling this kind of material could be continued, elaborated upon, and completed if and when the Carnegie Corporation grant is funded.

I'll handle the typing and distribution of the report to the SUPA membership from here as a part of Nebraska's contribution. I am assuming that the individuals involved will donate the day without a consulting fee at this time.

I hope you enjoyed your trip to Washington and are back home safe in Princeton. I look forward to hearing your reaction to this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Dm

D. F. Costello, Director
Academic Computing Services

DFC/vb