

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

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SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

April 2, 1974

Mr. Howard C. Petersen  
135 S. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19109

Dear Mr. Petersen:

I am enclosing a resolution which has been unanimously endorsed by the School of Natural Sciences at its final School meeting on April 1, 1974. We wish to request that you transmit it to the full Board for consideration at the Spring Board meeting.

We also would like to state, for the record, that we still believe that the section of "Responsibilities of the Faculty..." dealing with major academic innovations needs clarifications along the lines of those I presented to the Governance Committee earlier this year. So far, no Faculty action has been taken on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen L. Adler

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During the past six months the School of Natural Sciences has engaged in protracted discussions with the other three Schools of the Institute in an effort to reach agreement on a procedure for future Faculty appointments in established Schools. Despite the good faith effort of all involved, we regret to inform the Board that an agreement has not been reached, nor are we optimistic that the differences in point of view which have become evident will be significantly narrowed in the near future. We wish at this juncture to request that the Board take the following two steps:

- 1) To declare that a procedure for securing Faculty approval of appointments will be regarded as binding by the Board only if it has initially been endorsed by all of the Schools individually.
- 2) To declare that, in the absence of such agreement, the Board will act in accordance with alternative 3b of Prof. Selberg's proposal of Dec. 6. That is, if the nominating school is unanimous in its support of a proposed appointment and no issues other than the scholarly or scientific merits of the nominee are involved, the proposal shall be considered by the Board to have the necessary degree of Faculty approval.

We are aware that many of our colleagues are opposed to these two proposals, and while we respect their convictions, we believe that these are issues on which reasonable men can disagree. We feel that a statement by the Board along the lines we have suggested would be in the best long-run interests of the Institute.