verify the close similarities in structure and composition between illite and glauconite, and lend support to the possibility of glauconite genesis from an illitic clay.

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Comments and Communications

Emergency Projects and University Personnel

THE following correspondence between the Association of American Universities and the Science Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization relates to certain kinds of defense research projects and their effect on the normal activities of colleges and universities in education and research. It is submitted by its authors as a subject of general interest to the readers of SCIENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COLUMBIA
November 6, 1951

Mr. Oliver Buckley, Chairman
Science Advisory Committee
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. BUCKLEY:

As you probably know, the members of the Association of American Universities have been giving considerable attention to the whole problem of additional compensation for faculty members working on emergency research programs, especially government contracts. At our Annual Meeting held in New Haven on October 23–24, the Association with thirty-three of the thirty-seven member institutions represented unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The resolution, as amended and adopted, reads as follows:

> The present period of rearmament and national emergency has resulted in a heavy demand upon universities and university faculties to undertake defense research and other emergency services for the government. Our universities must accept their proper share of responsibility in meeting the security needs of the nation. Thus they are faced with the difficult, dual responsibility of assisting the government in its immediate and emergency needs, while at the same time preserving as fully as possible their basic and long-range activities in education and creative scholarship. In recognition of the difficulties inherent in this dual responsibility
>
> BE IT RESOLVED:
>
> (1) That the Association of American Universities reaffirms the importance of our universities' maintaining their primary functions in meeting the critical educational needs of the nation and of maintaining those policies and environmental conditions most favorable to free and creative scholarship.
>
> (2) That the Association of American Universities recognizes that in the national emergency, some institutions will be operating under government contracts, large research programs requiring these institutions to draw on the staffs of other universities or colleges for the temporary loan of faculty members, but registers the opinion the number of such programs should be kept to the minimum consistent with national security and only initiated when the need of the Government is clearly of utmost importance to the defense of the nation; and that to this end it further urges the Science Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization to take steps to ensure that there be careful screening of these projects.
>
> (3) That in the operation of such projects the universities recognize their responsibilities: (*a*) to manage these projects in a manner that is least disruptive of the normal educational and research activities of their own faculties and those of other institutions, and (*b*) to avoid whenever possible personnel policies and rates of compensation for these emergency projects which might embarrass or weaken other institutions. It is vital that the nation's universities preserve the incentives, prerogatives and attractiveness of academic appointments, and that they avoid policies which make educational and basic research activities poor relations of sponsored research.
>
> (4) Recognizing the possibility of special exceptions, the Association of American Universities feels that in general government funds should not be used to increase the monthly rate of compensation of staff members engaged on government research at the university of which they are members, or those on leave of absence from another institution.
>
> (5) That the Association of American Universities goes on record as favoring a policy of personnel rotation on university defense projects which will enable faculty members to return to their academic duties at their own institutions at the end of some period, preferably one, but not to exceed two academic years.

You are free to use this Resolution in any of your conferences and deliberations. If it would be helpful for any

other government offices to have copies of this document, I should be glad to forward it to them.

Very truly yours,
F. A. MIDDLEBUSH, *President*
Association of American Universities

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 20, 1951

DEAR DR. MIDDLEBUSH:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 6 in which, as President of the Association of American Universities, you bring to the attention of the Science Advisory Committee the resolution passed by the Association concerning the role played by American universities in the emergency defense program.

The Committee is aware of the heavy demand upon universities and university faculties to undertake research and other emergency services for the government. It also realizes the importance of preserving as fully as possible the basic and long-range activities of the universities in education and creative scholarship. Thus an academic institution may well face a difficult decision with respect to acceptance of a defense project of large magnitude or special character or with respect to facilitating transfer of personnel to such a project in another institution.

It is the aim of the Science Advisory Committee to be helpful in every possible way to the universities as well as to government agencies in achieving the most effective use of the scientific talent of the nation for defense. In accordance with this aim, the Committee is willing to give its opinion as to the wisdom of undertaking a defense research project of the type referred to in your resolution or of transferring a scientist to such a project when in the opinion of the institution such action might be expected to disrupt seriously a normal program of research and education. Other situations may arise, too, in which a university is confronted with more than one alternative for defense research when advice from the Committee might be helpful.

It is our understanding that the number of such projects currently under consideration is small and not likely greatly to increase. Thus it is hoped that the Committee would, with the cooperation of other government agencies, be able to undertake reviews of particular projects on request from academic institutions. Obviously the Committee, which is solely an advisory body, could not assume functions which are the responsibility of other government Departments, nor would it be practicable for the Committee to express its opinion on minor projects of which there are a great number. If, however, it should develop that there is need for review beyond that which the Committee is prepared to undertake, an endeavor will be made to find an appropriate mechanism for solving this problem.

In any case the services of the Committee and its members are available to all colleges and universities of the country in this matter which we regard as one of great importance.

If further discussion of this subject would be helpful, please be assured of my personal readiness and availability.

Sincerely yours,
OLIVER E. BUCKLEY, *Chairman*
Science Advisory Committee

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