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Memorandum L-51

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Digital Computer Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: DIGITAL COMPUTER LABORATORY CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION.

To: Joseph J. Snyder

From: Harris Fahnestock

Date: 8 July 1952

In January 1952, Buildings and Power undertook to renovate the basement and the first, third and fourth floors of Whittemore Buildings 2 and 3. This space was for Division 6 of Lincoln, a part of the Digital Computer Laboratory, to be occupied by June 1952. In January, it was recognized by the Laboratory and Buildings and Power that the funds then available would be insufficient to finish all the work that was required in the building. We are now occupying the entire building and rapidly increasing our personnel. The Laboratory personnel on July 1, 1951 was 199. On July 1, 1952, it was 418. Budget estimates for fiscal 1953 and fiscal 1954 provide for a total personnel of 671 by July 1, 1953. Of the present total, 169 are in the Barta Building, 244 in the Whittemore Buildings. The corresponding present net assignable square feet per person are 100 for Barta, 165 for Whittemore. This includes stock rooms and live storage but excludes corridors, wash-rooms and the computer. No further personnel can be added in Barta.

We are being hampered by the lack of certain facilities listed below. Items 1 through 5 have a priority higher than items 6 through 9.

1. Group 61 now consists of 59 people and in the next few months is expected to increase to 120. Most of these are engaged in desk work consisting of mathematical analysis and coding for Air Defense and require reasonable quiet. Forty-one of them are provided for in offices on the fourth floor of Building 2. Many of the rest should have partitioned offices in what is now the open fourth floor of Building 3.

Partitioning 4th floor, Building 3.      \$8,390

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2. Drinking fountains were provided only on the second floor. Failure to provide them on the other floors is having a very adverse effect on morale.

Drinking fountains on 4 floors. \$1,900

3. Lack of janitor's sinks makes maintenance difficult.

Sinks on 4 floors. \$1,000

4. There are no fire alarms in the building. We agree with the MIT Safety Engineer that this is an improper condition. He is making a proposal and estimate which will be submitted shortly.

5. A small amount of partitioning is needed in the Barta Building. Expansion of the Whirlwind I Computer has used up some office space. The machine shop and sheet metal shop have been moved to Whittemore, and we wish to provide several small offices for the Engineering and Scientific Computation Group in the vacated area.

Partitions for Math Group in Barta \$1,000

Items of Lower Priority

6. A few additional offices would be very desirable on the second and third floors of the Whittemore Building. These will include a library and provide some privacy for section leaders.

Additional offices on 2nd and 3rd floors. \$1,800

7. Additional lighting fixtures in machine shop. \$350

8. Room numbers on offices. \$115

9. The parking area northeast of the Whittemore Building is shared by the Digital Computer Laboratory and Instrumentation Laboratory. It is badly in need of improvement and should be hard surfaced, particularly for utility in winter.


Pave parking area. \$1,500

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Summary

Items 1 through 5.	\$12,290
Items 6 through 9.	<u>3,765</u>
Total (excluding fire alarms)	\$16,055

  
Harris Fannestock

HF:mb  
cc: Dr. J. A. Stratton  
Dr. C. F. Floe  
N. McL. Sage  
Dr. F. L. Foster