

Re: BUILDING COMMITTEE

Phase 1 - Classroom Block

Apart from finishing touches and minor adjustments Mr. Michell has completed Phase 1. Progress payments of £15,500 have been authorised by the Architects. The original estimate was £19,692 with a contingency sum of £1,000. Some of this contingency sum will be used for providing acoustic ceilings in the corridors, erection of brick retaining wall at site of ramp leading to the dining room, replacement of roof and wooden flooring in the upstairs toilet block, rubber flooring in a section of the old building and fluorescent lighting in the library. Appreciation is expressed for Mr. Michell's co-operation with the teaching staff during the rebuilding programme. Although inconvenience and noise could not be avoided his work team did their utmost to help us continue with the lecture programme. Inclement weather was not conducive to a rapid completion of the main work.

Phase 2 - Administrative and Office Block

Mr. Henderson is making excellent progress with phase 2 and it is anticipated that all major work will be completed before Christmas - well within the contract time of 26 weeks. This progress was possible because the entire work area was made available to his team and unlike phase 1 - the workmen were not hampered by the constant movement of students and staff. In addition to this, the building programme was organised so that several of the administrative offices could be occupied before the central section of the building was wrecked. Whilst the teaching staff have experienced difficulties and inconvenience, the clerical staff have borne the brunt of pneumatic drills, falling masonry and other noise factors whilst operating the telephone switchboard and maintaining routine office procedures. The fact that there has not been a complete breakdown in communications is entirely due to their efforts. Mrs. Thornely, Miss Earnshaw and Miss Wellington kept things going from April to August, when Mrs. Carty and Miss Waller replaced the last 2 staff members. To learn a new job under such conditions is no mean task. Progress payments amounting to £13,350 have been paid to Mr. Henderson. The original estimate for phase 2 was £42,890 - (including the tender of £7,640 for mechanical services sub contract) with a contingency allowance of £2,000. Some of this contingency sum will be used for additional costs associated with the repair and strengthening of the old Assembly Hall walls. The structural engineers submitted a report regarding the poor condition of these walls but the Commission adhered to its original plan of repair rather than demolition and replacement of the existing structure. The retaining wall on the Wattle Street boundary is in an unsafe condition and will need to be replaced with a concrete retaining wall or a temporary repair job. Estimates are being prepared for submission to the Commission.

Furnishings and Equipment

Classroom furniture

Mr. Forbes of the Hospitals and Charities Commission has sent a representative of his department to view and check our requests for office and classroom furnishings. It is the Commission's intention to approve good quality desks and chairs for the classrooms and standard steel filing cabinets and office equipment. The final choice has yet to be determined - but the cost could be in the vicinity of several thousand pounds.

Demonstration room equipment

Competitive prices have been obtained from Ramsay's and Victorian Hospitals Association, and these will be submitted to the Commission in due course.

Phase 3 - Students Residence

The Commission has advised that preliminary planning for this building has been postponed until 1965 - with the request that a further narrative be prepared and submitted for its consideration.

This could well mean a delay until 1967.

With our current problems of staff accommodation and hostel supervision - further delay at this time will seriously affect staff relationships and educational progress.

The majority of trained staff prefer to live out - but several sisters are required to "live in" the hostels and give some supervision in off duty periods.

This in effect means that the senior nursing staff are never free from the students.

The married male tutors who live out do not have these additional "chores" - but here again, rentals are high and suitable housing difficult to obtain. The Commission has advised that it is unable to make capital money available for the purchase of staff residences.

N. W. LONG
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