

To: Mihran Agbabian, Sona Hamalian
From: Alexander Glockner
Date: 29 November 1991
Re: Memos of 27 and 28 November

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Dep*

Mihran/Sona, I hope your own Thansgiving holidays have been pleasant. I spent my Thanksgiving afternoon at the Ministry of Health talking to their director of computing, but I enjoyed the talk as much as I would vacation.

1) Igor confirmed that he will only be working part-time at Mathematical Machines Institute starting December 9 (and will bring a letter to that effect for our files). He wishes to leave MMI altogether (and have AUA as sole employer) starting March 15. I would very much like to have Igor full-time starting December 9.

2) At UCSD, we frequently used the (imprecise) phrase "hiring TAs"; I'm sorry if it caused you difficulty. Marina will start in the lab on December 2. Our original plans for Vazgen were to spend 10 hours a week with Margaret writing the programs she required (e.g. report card printing) for the end of this quarter. After that, he would split his time between Shareen and Margaret, much as Arthur already splits his time between maintenance and computer-lab-improvement tasks. He has already written the basic structures that allowed Shareen to begin data entry. (If not obvious, I would also want him on the same assistantship program.) Sona can either speak with me, with Vazgen, or with both of us as she wishes.

3) The hardware matters (and an update on our electronic mail agreement with the Seismic Institute) I will put in a separate fax next week.

4) My plan was to teach the Academy Computer Institute people (and now a few people from other computer-oriented institutes) in the same class as our students. Since my classes were introductory material, voluntary for our students, and since most of the students I expect to attend are of the caliber of grad.students at these institutes (as judged from the programs they brought in to be exempted from BASIC programming), I thought combining the groups would work. It would also be the most convenient for me as well. I will not have exams and only a little homework. If you still believe it unwise to combine groups, I will offer separate classes.

5) I will be watching the videotaped lectures Monday morning (Dec 2). Susanna will help me in determining how much of the material the students will have learned in their previous studies. Please, what sort of feedback would you like besides: "I can (cannot) use these in manner-X"?

6) Costa and I received a copy of your earlier memo on invited lectures. Wednesday night, we decided that since Sona was already very busy, since we thought many of the invited lecturers could speak later, since Armen is leaving December 26, and since his material on organizational structure would be very important (in opposition to the main Soviet experience), we would ask Armen if he could give his lectures now (he agreed), get your consent for him to speak, and then schedule the invited lecturers in a more leisurely fashion. [There are only two lectures 12/4 and 12/11; December 18 is reserved for the computer final, and the other weekdays will be required for dilatory students to finish their lab work.] Again, if you think this is a bad idea, I'll be happy to work with Sona to schedule some invitations now.

My apologies for insufficient communication or excess initiative -- I'll keep advancing towards the happy medium...
Alex