GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

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SPONSORED PROJECT TERMINATION/CLOSEOUT SHEET

Date: 12/16/85

Project No. E-21-695

Includes Subproject No.(s) N/A

Project Director(s) M. H. Hayes

Sponsor GTE Laboratories Incorporated

Title Industrial Undergraduate Research Participation Program

Effective Completion Date: 10/31/85 (Performance) 10/31/85 (Reports)

Grant/Contract Closeout Actions Remaining:

- [ ] None
- [x] Final Invoice or Final Fiscal Report
- [ ] Closing Documents
- [ ] Final Report of Inventions
- [ ] Govt. Property Inventory & Related Certificate
- [ ] Classified Material Certificate
- [ ] Other

Continues Project No. Continued by Project No.

COPIES TO:

Project Director
Research Administrative Network
Research Property Management
Accounting
Procurement/GTRI Supply Services
Research Security Services
Reports Coordinator (OCA)
Legal Services

Library
GTRC
Research Communications (2)
Project File
Other

Mildred Jones
Having spent two weeks at GTE Laboratories with the 1985 Industrial Undergraduate Research Program, I was fortunate in having the opportunity to meet with and talk to many of the IURP participants and their Principal Investigators. As my impressions were last year, I again am very impressed with the manner in which the IURP program is organized and run. Almost without exception, the overall feeling and attitude of the students was positive. The projects they were working on were both exciting and challenging and all were grateful for the opportunity to experience working on real problems. Many were surprised to find out that all of the courses they took in school only served to prepare them for work in an industrial environment and that the solutions to the problems they were working on and the answers to questions which arose could not be found in any book. So I think that the summer at the Laboratories, for most, was a humbling experience.

In spite of all of these positive aspects of the program, there were a few problems associated with the housing which I list in the following paragraph. Following are some ideas I had for improving the IURP next year.

I. Problems:

As you are probably well aware, there were several problems with the housing at Bentley College. The first problem, which was corrected after a short period of time, was transportation into the city. The solution was a Bentley shuttle bus which did allow for students to get to and from the city. However, there seemed to be more travel constraints placed on their
travel than there were at Tufts last year.

Another problem which bothered many of the students was the lack of phones in the dorm. I believe that at Tufts there was a Resident Manager who (24 hours a day) would receive telephone messages. This was apparently not possible at Bentley. As a result, several of the students paid to have phones installed in their room.

Finally, unlike the situation at Tufts, the Project Directors were isolated from the students. I always felt a little uncomfortable getting off the bus and walking to a different dormitory than the students. The separation minimized the potential for student/Project Director interaction and made social activities such as an evening game of ping pong or volleyball much more difficult. All of the spontaneity was gone since one had to make plans at dinner.

II. Suggestions for Improvement

During the course of my stay at GTE I developed a few ideas which I believe will improve the IURP program. The first few suggestions were a response to my being asked the same question over and over again by the students I spoke with at the Laboratory. This question was: What are you doing here? It soon became apparent that very few of the IURP students knew what the role of the Project Directors was. For example, none of them knew that they could come to us with problems and suggestions or that they could call upon us freely for help and advice. What I feel would help the students next year are the following:

1. Let each student know what the role of the Project Directors is.
2. Give each student a list containing the following information
   (a) Project Director name and University
   (b) Project Director’s area of interest and specialization
   (c) Dates Project Director will be at the Lab.
3. Give the room number in the Lab where the Project Directors may be found if any student
wants to seek some help or advice.

My last suggestion concerns the application procedure. In talking with the students, many of them believed that the project descriptions were far too brief and felt that they had no idea what type of project they were selecting when they are asked to rank order their top choices for projects to work on. If possible, it would be helpful to the applicants if more information could be provided in the project descriptions in the application forms to make it easier (and less risky) to prioritize their preferences for projects.

III. Final Remark

I would like to close by thanking everyone at GTE Laboratories for the opportunity to help in the IURP Program. I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the program and hope to be able to participate in it again.