**NOTES FROM THE 21ST ANNUAL MEETING**

**FACTS OF FUNDING**

Dr. Wendell F. McBurney, Associate Dean of Research and Sponsored Programs and Associate Professor of Science Education at Indiana University, Purdue University at Indianapolis led this discussion which was attended by about twenty people.

A former high school teacher and NSF Institute participant, McBurney emphasized that funding of some sort is essential if we are to develop and implement new ideas. Funding is survival. The notion that funds have "dried up" is a myth. Although it is true that grant funds, federal and private, have been redistributed. One of the most important facts of funding then is locating the proper sources of funds.


Once a potential source of funds has been found, one should ask himself honestly the following questions: Is my institution fundable? Am I fundable? Is my idea fundable? Of these, the last is perhaps the most important because funding is "idea dependent". Dr. McBurney stated that any really good idea is fundable somewhere. A proposal even with a sensational idea behind it is often not funded due to poor attention to technical details. One large foundation, McBurney noted, rejects nine of every ten proposals because they are poorly written.

One important aspect of obtaining funds is learning the agency. According to McBurney, one should establish "a non-offensive dialogue" with the agency. A visit if possible or most certainly a phone call or two may be extremely useful in establishing contacts. A person should get on the agency's mailing list so that he receives ALL agency publications. Even after a given grant has terminated, a good rapport should be maintained with the funding officers.

In closing, Dr. McBurney noted the following areas as currently being fundable: 1) women, 2) handicapped, 3) two-year colleges, 4) the young investigator, and 5) NSF institutional grants.

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**EVOLUTION AND SOCIETY**

The section, "Evolution and Society" was attended by eleven people from nine colleges. The discussions were rather "free for all" and wide-ranging.