## PRENTICE CENTRE

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AWC/kmst 18 August 1993

Mr F.D.O. Fielding Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services) Forgan Smith Building The University of Queensland 4072

Dear Derek,

## AARNet Engineering Working Group

I have attached a copy of a letter from Peter Saalmans to the Vice-Chancellor regarding the format of the AARNet Engineering Working Group.

There is no doubt that the initial success with the implementation of AARNet was in no small measure due to the technical expertise within the Computer Centres of many Australian Universities. I am pleased to see that this expertise will continue to be used for the further development of AARNet. This occurred during the first couple of years of AARNet when the Advisory Board budgeted a few hundred thousand dollars per year for funding projects in institutions. This lapsed with AARNet financial difficulties. The current proposal is to bring the expertise together but at no cost to AARNet funds.

We must accept the invitation for George Michaelson and Mark I. Williams to join the AARNet Engineering Working Group and I have advised Peter Saalmans accordingly. Nevertheless, I have advised George and Mark that the Centre will fund their attendance at meetings for general discussion but we do not have the resources to take on projects unless they happen to coincide with local work.

As regards the second last paragraph regarding institutional mechanisms I think that this can be achieved best through forming an AARNet User Group and see what develops out of it. There are reasons, apart from engineering projects, for forming a user group. But even this will involve resources that we do not have. Nevertheless, I think we should go ahead with this and do our best.

Yours sincerely,

Alan W. Coulter

Director

Encl.