



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Correspondence - Preston

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July 9, 1982

Vice President David R. Preston
Chairman, Search Committee
University of Minnesota
Box 501 Mayo Memorial Building

Dear Vice President Preston:

I am writing in your capacity as Chairman of the Search Committee for the Associate Vice President for Finance. This is strictly a gratuitous comment, quite unsolicited, and I'm sure you will consider it for what it's worth in the spirit intended. I am simply recommending that you actively seek out and recruit Tony Potami to apply and compete for this position. There is probably no better example on our campus of an individual who understands the University community, who works effectively within it, who has the courage and ability to make decisions within a recognizedly cumbersome system, who understands the true function of administrator is to help, encourage and support other University administrators and faculty and researchers, who understands relationships with the major source of our funds and outside the state better than anyone on campus (NIH), who is largely responsible for the decent reputation for accountability that Minnesota has with NIH, who goes out of his way to help the research enterprise on this campus in very tangible and effective ways including the personnel and financial resources of his section, whose general attitude is positive, "yes, let's get it done," rather than negative, "that would be awfully difficult." Finally, he has devoted his career to academic administration and could certainly have done much better in industry.

I have thought for some time that I would like to recommend some special campus recognition for Tony Potami's work. But awards for non-academic activities are not all that evident around the campus, at least I am unfamiliar with them. It would seem to me that recognition in terms of this level of position would certainly be the most appropriate reward.

Again, I want to indicate that there have been no communications about this with anyone. It has simply come to my attention through the School that you are searching for this position, and I thought it would do no harm to "consider the obvious" with you.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

/jml

cbpc: D. Stauffer

HEALTH SCIENCES

*1/11/82
JML*