

TO: Ilene Burnstein, CS

FROM: Michael Davis, CSEP

DATE: January 13, 1995

SUBJECT: software engineering project

Vivian has gone to China for two weeks. She asked me to pass the enclosed announcement on to you (in case you hadn't seen it). She also asked me to get your opinion on trying to get Barry Boehm (through Tom Garrow of Development).

Last, she asked me to let you know that she is thinking of using NSF's fast-track for an preliminary grant of \$50,000 to get us started on the project. (She keeps on saying "sugar grant", but I don't recall what the initials of the category are or what they stand for.) The purpose of these grants is to get a major research idea far enough along to see whether its worth going through with. We would want to have a proposal in by March and could have money by summer.

In the meantime, I've talked with Donald Gotterbarn, with whom I've shared a stage now and then. He is the ACM Co-Chair of the ethics task force of the Joint IEEE-CS/ACM Committee for the Establishment of Software Engineering as a Profession. He made the following points: a) there is already evidence of tension between the three task forces (ethics, education, body of knowledge) and between IEEE and ACM; and b) the three task forces are due to report in November, at which point they may well need a good deal of help both with deciding what is and is not "engineering" and with the relation between ethical standards, technical standards, and education as ways of raising standards of practice. (The November deadline is probably unrealistic.) Our technical assistance would *probably be* welcomed.

Vivian also hoped we might talk about all this some before she gets back. She'd like to move quickly on it once she does.

cc: VW