



April 30, 1962

To Members of the Faculty:

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of five members of the faculty to Ford Professorships. These represent the first appointments to a total of seven chairs which you will recall were endowed under the grant made by the Ford Foundation in 1959 for the support of advances in engineering education. The intention in endowing these chairs was to support professors highly qualified to contribute to important, newly emerging domains of engineering. It will interest you that the five were chosen from our own Faculty after an exhaustive survey of the possible candidates in other institutions and in industry indicated they were the best qualified. The Ford Professors will continue to hold their own department affiliations and status but will be particularly concerned with interdisciplinary teaching and research activities in their respective fields. They are:

Dr. Morris Cohen, Ford Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, a graduate of M.I.T. and a member of the teaching staff in the Department of Metallurgy since 1936, has played a prominent role in the development of the materials science curricula and is internationally recognized as one of the leading physical metallurgists. During the past two years he has initiated a new program of education in materials science and engineering which deals with the structure of solids and the relation of structure to properties. Both the science and technology of metallic and nonmetallic materials are encompassed in this new field of teaching.

Dr. Robert M. Fano, Ford Professor of Engineering, came to M.I.T. in 1940 and earned S.B. and Sc.D. degrees in electrical engineering after doing part of his undergraduate work at the School of Engineering in Turin, Italy. He became a member of the teaching staff in 1941, and as Professor of Electrical Communications has made important contributions to the development of the new electrical engineering curriculum and to research in the processing and transmission of information. Professor Fano is renowned for his distinguished contributions in the field of information theory and communications. He is spending this year doing research at Lincoln Laboratory.

Dr. Harold S. Mickley, Ford Professor of Engineering, was graduated from the California Institute of Technology, came to M.I.T. in 1942 as a research assistant, and became a member of the Faculty in 1946. As a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering he is developing a new program of study in the continuum behavior of matter -- a generalized engineering approach to the prediction of the response of matter to changes in the applied field states, temperature, stress, electric, etc. -- to provide a connection between thermodynamics and rate processes. He is internationally known for his work in fluid mechanics, heat, momentum and mass transfer.

Ford
Professors
(Letter)

Dr. Ascher H. Shapiro, Ford Professor of Engineering, became an assistant in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1938, after receiving his S.B. degree, and became a member of the Faculty in 1944. He has a world-wide reputation in the field of fluid dynamics and thermodynamics, and during the past two years has been playing a leading national role in the production of a series of films on fluid dynamics. He has fostered the idea of fluid dynamics as a central discipline with vast ramifications extending from hydraulics to plasma dynamics, and he has contributed to the many curriculum improvements of the past few years in mechanical engineering.

Dr. David C. White, Ford Professor of Engineering, a noted authority on electrical energy conversion, received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University and joined the M.I.T. Faculty as a member of the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1952. He evolved the theme of energy processing as a broad educational concept, revising electrical machinery laboratory teaching around the concepts of electromagnetic theory, analytical mechanics and the interaction of fields and matter. His activities contributed substantially to the widely accepted changes in electrical engineering education at M.I.T. and elsewhere.

The appointment of these first Ford Professors at M.I.T. will have great impact on the future of engineering education and research.

Gordon S. Brown
Dean, School of Engineering