

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

June 30, 1994

To: Visual Effects Committee Members

From: Jonathan Erland, Chair, Visual Effects Committee

Re: **Transactions of the Meeting of June 23, 1994**

On June 23rd, the Visual Effects Committee met to review and respond to the proposals of the Board Realignment Committee in the matter of branch status for Visual Effects. Due to the relatively short notice provided for that meeting, some seven members were unable to attend. Largely for their benefit, this communication will briefly summarize the meeting.

I reported on the transactions of the Board Realignment Committee and that of the Board of Governors. The Chair of the Realignment Committee had proposed to create a Branch for Members-at-Large with Board representation divided between Visual Effects, Makeup, and some other constituency. Thus, Visual Effects would nominate candidates for Governor every three years. However, the voting for all Governors of the branch would be open to the whole Members-at-Large Branch.

As the Effects representative on the Committee, I felt obliged to object to the proposal and request the withdrawal of the motion. I felt that Visual Effects had not yet had the opportunity to present a case for branch status in its own right, and further, that the proposed hybrid branch structure would lead to ongoing difficulties between the various constituencies, especially when one faction (Visual Effects) comprised an overwhelming majority. The outcome of the meeting was that the Realignment Committee requested that Visual Effects present a brief initially to the Committee, and possibly also to the Board of Governors.

At the Visual Effects meeting, I requested clarification of the goals of the Visual Effects Committee on the question of branch status. On a motion of Pete Clark, seconded by Greg Van der Veer, we unanimously voted to seek full branch status as the Visual Effects Branch. The Committee then went on to request that I, as the Chair, convey our views in writing to the Realignment Committee. This has been done.

Due to the significance of this action, I would like to provide members of the Committee who were unable to attend the meeting the opportunity to express their views and place them on the record. Please call me at 213-257-1163, or FAX me at 213-257-0604, or call or FAX Claudia Barrett at the Academy, 310-247-3000, FAX 310-859-9619, indicating whether you endorse the motion, oppose it, or abstain on the question. Additionally, your suggestions and advice would be most welcome. Needless to say, the burden of the preparation of the presentation will need to be borne by all of us. (A preliminary request for information accompanies this.) The Committee also discussed the need for great discretion in these proceedings, especially in relation to contact with the press.

I look forward to hearing from you.