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Akron U Pushes For Medical School

Details Presented To Ohio Regents

By HARVEY FORD
Blade Education Editor

OXFORD, O., March 14—The University of Akron made a bid to be named as the site for a new medical school at the meeting of the Ohio Board of regents at Miami University here yesterday.

Paul Belcher, vice president of an Akron bank and chairman of a medical school committee appointed by the Akron mayor, told the regents that the question was carefully studied before it was decided to seek a medical school.

He said the study was conducted under the direction of an official of the Association of American Medical Schools, which resulted in a recommendation favoring Akron as the site.

The University of Akron has a fully accredited graduate school, including a PhD program, which would make the institution an appropriate location for a medical school, Mr. Belcher said. He added that the city of Akron is prepared to contribute \$1 million of the \$3 million which the location for the medical school would cost.

Mr. Belcher pointed out that Akron is in the center of northeastern Ohio, where he said about half of the state's population lives.

Only the medical school at Western Reserve University presently serves this area, and Mr. Belcher said Western Reserve and Akron together could not graduate enough doctors to serve the region. He said all elements in Akron, including the hospitals and the medical association, support the medical school project. If Ohio is to have only one new medical school, it should be in Akron, he declared.

Dr. Norman Auburn, president of the University of Akron, said his institution is eager to have a medical school, if the state and federal governments provide financial support. A site for the medical school has already been picked out here, he explained.

Regents Told They Can't Pick Medical School Site

Dr. Harold W. Oyster, chairman of the regents, announced at the meeting that he had been advised by the attorney general that the board lacks the power to designate a site for a new state medical school.

The attorney general, he said, also indicated that the medical school question is a proper subject for study and inclusion in the master plan for higher education in Ohio, which the board is making.

Medical education will be included in the master plan, Dr. Oyster said, and he added that the regents have the authority to make recommendations to the Legislature on a medical school.

This appears to leave the medical school question about where it was before the attorney general's ruling. The Board of Regents is the advisory body on higher education in Ohio, empowered to make appropriate recommen-

dations concerning colleges and universities.

Many regents are known to feel that any decision on a medical school should await the completion of the master plan. The General Assembly would have to be consulted in any case, since only the Legislature can appropriate money to run a medical school.

Dr. Frank Rawling, president of the Toledo Area Medical College and Education Foundation, said after the meeting that he would make certain that the Legislature, the regents, and those involved in making the master plan are fully informed of the merits of locating the medical school in Toledo. He added that he is not discouraged by the attorney general's ruling.

Committee Authorized To Exceed Limitation

The regents authorized the capital improvements committee to go above the \$250,000 limitation in releasing money to BGSU for improvements on its heating plan.

Dr. Oyster, chairman of the capital improvements committee, explained that his group is authorized to release amounts up to \$250,000 to universities without the vote of the full board of regents. Under this authorization, Dr. Oyster said his committee has released money to several universities, including two amounts of \$140,000 and \$30,000 to the University of Toledo for plans for a new science-engineering building, and an addition to the present engineering building.

Planning Funds Given For University Branches

The board unanimously approved the release of planning money for the following state university branches:

► Ohio State, at Dayton and Lima.

► Kent State, at Ashland.

► Miami, at Middletown.

► Ohio University, at Portsmouth, Chillicothe, Zanesville, and Belmont County.

The regents also approved the use of standardized plans in the construction of the branches at Ashtabula, Middletown, Portsmouth, Chillicothe, Zanesville, and Belmont County.

Robert F. Doolittle, chairman of the regents committee on branches, said no decision could be given now on the controversial Ohio State branch at Mansfield, but he

promised that a recommendation would be made at the next meeting. He said the additional time is needed to study the competing claims for the OSU branch submitted by Galion and Bucyrus.

Progress Reported On State Master Plan

Warren Chase, secretary of the regents, reported that the master plan is making progress under the direction of Sidney Pickton, of the Academy for Educational Development, and noted that Mr. Pickton will visit all the state and municipal universities. He added that Mr. Pickton will give consideration to the needs of private colleges in the master plan.

Regents Formally Vote Appointment Of Millett

In other action, the regents:

► Approved formally, the appointment of Dr. John D. Millett, president of Miami University, as director and chancellor of the regents at an annual salary of \$40,000 on a year-to-year contract. John Marshall Briley, regent from Perrysburg, will head a committee which will define the duties of the new chancellor.

► Approved the suggestion of Dr. Kenneth McFall, vice president of Bowling Green State University, who said state university enrollments should be calculated on the basis of the number of students in school 14 days after classes begin in September.

► Authorized Miami University to grant the new degree of bachelor of science in engineering science.

► Set their next meeting for April 10 at Kent State.