

Medical School Report Indicates Project Could Take 10 Years To Finish

Consultant For Citizens Group Suggests TU Campus, Scott Park As Possible Sites If \$17-\$24 Million Plan Is Found Feasible

Ten years might be required to prepare plans, construct buildings and recruit and organize a staff for a medical school here, it was estimated today by Dr. William R. Willard, a consultant for a citizens committee studying the feasibility of such a school in Toledo.

It is possible, under optimal conditions, to reduce the time considerably, Dr. Willard said at a news conference in City Council's chambers.

Dr. Willard, vice president of the University of Kentucky medical center and dean of the college of medicine there, visited Toledo for a week last summer to make the survey, which was financed by \$2,500 of a \$6,500 grant from council to the committee.

Costs Estimated

He placed construction costs for a medical science building, a 350-bed hospital and a power plant at roughly \$17 million to \$24 million. Annual operating costs are calculated at \$2 million, excluding research and training grants.

The University of Toledo campus was suggested by Dr. Willard as the best site for a medical school, but he said that TU lacks the graduate school resources and research found at most universities having medical schools.

He noted, however, that the institution compares well with other Ohio universities that do not have medical schools. If development and transition from a teaching college proceed as desired by administration and faculty, TU could offer as good an academic environment for medicine as other institutions and the university would be strengthened by a medical school, he said.

Other possible sites listed by Dr. Willard were Scott Park, which could be linked with TU campus in the next decade or two, and near Maumee Valley Hospital, which would be easiest and most expedient, although values of a university environment would be lost.

Answer Indefinite

The consultant said it is impossible now to provide a yes or no answer to the feasibility of a medical school here, but added that Ohio needs more medical schools.

He said further that Toledo has the clinical material for a successful teaching program, especially if patients from the city health department and Maumee Valley Hospital are available. The hospital itself is unsuitable for a teaching hospital, he said.

In Dr. Willard's view a four-year medical school is more practical than a two-year school.

Other points made by Dr. Willard included:

► Local tax funds would be difficult to obtain and state aid is highly speculative, leaving private philanthropy, regional fund-raising drives and federal aid as sources of building money.

► Possible sources of operating money include welfare funds, tuition and fees, research grants, professional fees and perhaps state and federal aid.

► Addition of a teaching hospital would not create problems for other hospitals and would not give the community more beds than are needed.

► Genuine interest and a favorable attitude toward a medical school exist here. No vested-interest groups appear to complicate the problem.

► Although the local pool of potential medical students seems small (an initial class

of 64 was suggested), valid statistics are impossible without further study.

"The next steps that are appropriate in Toledo depend upon the degree of conviction of the Medical School Committee and other citizens that a medical school is worth having—worth the time, work and cost that would be entailed.

"Although Toledo has many assets, it also has a major preparatory job ahead with the University of Toledo, if a quality medical school is to be established in the proper setting," Dr. Willard said.

Suggests Plan

Best chance for state aid, apart from continued attempts to get aid for municipal universities, is "development of a realistic plan for medical school development geared to a program of quality education, an understanding of the plan by leading citizens, support for the plan and some tangible progress in its implementation," the consultant continued.

He recommended broadening the study committee to represent the entire region and hiring a professional staff person.

Meanwhile, Dr. Willard said, TU should complete long range development of physical assets, including land for a medical school, and the strengthening of arts, sciences and humanities to provide intellectual environment for medicine.

He also suggested reaching agreement on the future of Maumee Valley Hospital to be sure no commitments for the site are made without clearing with the committee.

Damas Asking Committee To Continue Its Work

Mayor Damas announced that he is asking the 12-member study committee to continue its work.

"It is my earnest desire that the work of the committee be continued in the same diligent vein in which it has begun," the mayor said in a letter to committee members. "The ultimate end of this effort will have immeasurable value to the community, to the university itself and to the individuals who will be using such facilities for years to come."

The mayor appointed the committee last November. Members are Dr. Frank F. A. Rawling, Dr. Maurice Schnitker, Dr. Gregor Sido, Wilson Benfer, Dr. Edward Burns, Ward Canaday, William Carlson, J. Slater Gibson, Dr. Saul Kelson, Msgr. Robert Maher, Dr. Byron Shaffer and John Willard.

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