

Regents Defer Decision On TU Medical School

Postponement Allowed For Akron Plea,
Opinion By State Attorney General

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COLUMBUS, Feb. 15—The Ohio Board of Regents deferred yesterday until its next meeting the question of designating the University of Toledo as the site for a new medical school.

The regents meet next on March 13 at Miami University, Oxford.

The postponement was unanimously approved to give the University of Akron a chance to make a plea for a medical school and to get an opinion from the Ohio attorney general on what responsibilities are involved in making such a designation.

The latter point was not elaborated on, but Robert F. Doolittle, Hubbard, a regent, said after the meeting that it is necessary to determine how much the regents would commit the state in the matter of support if the board designates TU as a site for a medical school.

Urges Master Plan

Mr. Doolittle also thought the whole question of a new medical school in Ohio should await the formation of a master plan for higher education in the state.

John Marshall Briley, Perrysburg, another regent, agreed that the master plan should precede the authorization for a medical school, although he added that TU is by far the best qualified to receive such a designation.

Neither Mr. Briley nor Dr. Harold Oyster, Marietta, chairman of the regents, would predict the outcome of the medical school controversy. Dr. Oyster said there are too many "individualists" on the board to anticipate how they will vote.

Dr. Frank Rawling, president of the Toledo Area Medical School and Education Foundation, said he was not really disappointed at the postponement.

'We Are Getting Some Place'

"At least we are getting some place and getting some clarification of the issue," Dr. Rawling commented.

Dr. Rawling expressed confidence that TU will make the more convincing showing on any comparison with Akron.

State Sen. Frank King (D., Toledo) remarked that he was a little disappointed at the regents' action. He said the outstanding impression he gained from the meeting is that "we must recognize that the board of regents is the absolute authority on higher education in Ohio.

"The State Legislature doesn't mean a thing."

Noting that the regents had received a statement of TU's case by letter on Feb. 5, Dr. Rawling reviewed to the board the four years of study which have been devoted to the medical school project by independent medical experts and by a state commission.

He said TU needs the designation soon so it can begin planning in depth and detail and explore the question of financial support.

Support Presentation

Senator King and Willard Smith, TU director of administration, supported Dr. Rawling's presentation. The senator called the studies, which recommended TU, fair and objective, and added that these studies also included a recommendation to expand Ohio State's medical school, which the regents already have approved.

Dr. Norman Auburn, president of the University of Akron, said his institution is interested in getting a medical school if operating funds will be supplied by the state and federal governments.

He said that if the regents approve two new medical schools for Ohio, he would back TU as one of them. But if only one new medical school is to be designated, Dr. Auburn said he thought Akron interests should have a chance to present their case. The regents then voted to postpone the decision on the issue until next month.

Briley To Recommend Regents' Chancellor

Mr. Briley told the regents he would make a recommendation for chancellor, or director, at their next meeting. Mr. Briley is chairman of the subcommittee which has been seeking an executive officer for the regents.