

HEALTH SCIENCE
PROGRAMS AND PLANS
PRESENTED TO 'U' REGENTS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
NEWS SERVICE-220 MORRILL HALL
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
APRIL 14, 1967

For further information, contact:
Gerald Knox, 373-5830

(FOR RELEASE AT 10 A.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 14)

Minneapolis---Top University of Minnesota educators in the health sciences presented their programs to the University's Board of Regents today---and outlined proposed plans to greatly increase the number of students to be educated in the health sciences at the University during the next 10 to 20 years. The presentation was one of a series of seminars initiated last year by the Board of Regents on major developments at the University.

The University's program in the health sciences was given by Dr. Robert B. Howard, dean of the College of Medical Sciences, Dr. Erwin M. Schaffer, dean of the School of Dentistry, Lawrence C. Weaver, dean of the College of Pharmacy, and John H. Westerman, director of University of Minnesota Hospitals. Elmer W. Learn, assistant to President O. Meredith Wilson of the University, and chairman of the University's Committee for the Study of Physical Facilities for the Health Sciences, led the presentation.

The presentation outlined the methods, facilities, funding and future of the University's education of medical students, dental students, students in nursing, pharmacy, public health and a dozen other existing or new programs in associated health professions. Considerable attention was given to the needs of Minnesota and the upper midwest for people trained in the health sciences.

The University's major \$53-million expansion plan in the health sciences was related to present programs, with emphasis on increased quality of educational programs in the health sciences, as well as a striking increase in students. The University's health sciences expansion plan was approved by the Board of Regents in July of 1966, and presented to the Minnesota State Legislature earlier this year.

The program calls for more than doubling student enrollment in the health sciences at the University, from 3,124 students in 1966 to 6,900 students in 1986.

(MORE)

Price tag on the expansion proposal is \$53,440,800. This replaces a \$34-million 10-year building program presented to the 1965 legislature which did not anticipate expansion of medical and dental classes. The new proposal represents a more comprehensive approach to health science facilities, and incorporates the enrollment expansion recommendations of the Health Manpower for the Upper Midwest Study, independently sponsored by the Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul.

It is expected that about half of the new funds will come from federal matching and private sources. The request before this session of the Minnesota State Legislature is for \$1,150,000 for the next two years to cover land acquisition costs (\$650,000) and planning (\$500,000).

The program includes an increase in the University's entering medical class from 160 to 200 students at an early date and establishes plans for expansion to 250 at some time in the future. Further medical enrollment increases are expected in intern training and graduate students (fellows and residents), at both the University's medical center and affiliated hospitals. Medical students will go from 1,290 in 1966 to 1,645 in 1973---and to 2,105 by 1986.

Dental classes will increase by 40 per cent, from 110 to 150 students, with an eventual expansion to 200 students anticipated. Additional students in dentistry training (graduate and postgraduate students, dental hygiene, and dental assistants) will increase the total dental student population from 569 in 1966 to 1,184 in 1973.

Public health programs, such as environmental health, hospital administration, and public health nursing, will increase from 262 students in 1966 to 389 in 1973, with long-range expansion to 540 students.

Nursing programs now conducted will show the largest proportional increase (nearly 100 per cent), with student training at the University of Minnesota going from 417 in 1966 to 802 in 1973.

Occupational therapy, physical therapy, and 10 other existing or new professional programs in the associated health sciences will also show significant increases. These programs will expand to accommodate nearly 200 new students by 1973 and as many as 555 new students by 1986.

The proposed expansion envisions the remodeling of existing basic science buildings, the construction of a new dental building, a new outpatient clinic and hospital building (which would include 270 beds), and a new clinical research building.

The need for a modern and expanded outpatient facility was stressed. The present building was constructed in 1920.

Changes in education programs for the health sciences are at the heart of the University's plans. Closer integration of all health science programs, in recognition of the "team approach" to comprehensive health care, was a major point. This has significant implications for the training of physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and members of the growing number of associated health professions. Closer interaction among research workers in all areas of the health sciences also is a part of the plan.

The basis for the health sciences expansion program at the University of Minnesota is found in two recent reports: Health Manpower for the Upper Midwest (August 1966), sponsored by the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation, and a preliminary report from the University's Long Range Planning Study of the Physical Facilities for the Health Sciences.