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March 20, 1968

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
College of Medical Sciences

TO: Members of the General Faculty of the College of Medical Sciences

FROM: Dean Robert B. Howard

SUBJECT: Further development of the "health sciences concept"

During the past two or three years it has been increasingly evident that the College of Pharmacy, School of Dentistry, and the various units of the College of Medical Sciences have a substantial common interest with respect to a number of aspects of their respective programs. For example, all share a stake in the basic sciences and all make some kind of use of the University Hospitals as a teaching laboratory. The College of Veterinary Medicine also has important relationships with the Minneapolis-based health sciences, but these relationships are less clear-cut.

The experience of the last two years of conjoint planning for health science facilities has heightened our awareness of our common purposes and interests. Many of us have become convinced that the realization of our proposed plans for development and expansion will depend in good measure on public understanding of the true breadth of the University's health science programs. For the past year or more the heads of various health science colleges and schools have met at reasonably frequent intervals on an informal basis for discussion of subjects of mutual interest. Certain programs, e.g., the Health Sciences Information Office, have already been established on a conjoint basis.

In light of all of the foregoing considerations, the deans of the various health sciences are about to make certain recommendations to the Central Administration and the Board of Regents that would emphasize the interrelatedness and interdependence of the various health science programs. These recommendations are:

1. That the University adopt the title "University of Minnesota Health Sciences Center" to replace the title "University of Minnesota Medical Center";
2. That a Council of Health Sciences Deans and Directors be officially recognized by the University as an advisory body with respect to those programs of obvious common interest and concern to all health science programs;
3. That the Dean of the College of Medical Sciences be designated as chairman of such Council; and
4. That the Council be further charged with the responsibility for identifying those programs that are indeed "health-science-wide" in scope; for making such programs operating realities; and for developing alternative means of organization that would foster such programs. These responsibilities would be carried out with full consultation with and participation of the faculties of the various units involved.

Please let me emphasize that the proposal to be made, if adopted, would not alter in any way the present administrative relationships of the School of Dentistry, the College of Pharmacy, the College of Medical Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine with each other or with the Central Administration; nor would it alter internal administrative relationships within the College of Medical Sciences. Future changes in these various interrelationships may ultimately take

Memorandum to General Faculty of the College of Medical Sciences

Page 2

March 20, 1968

place, but only after detailed consideration, discussion, and participation by the faculties. The present proposal accomplishes only these two objectives:

- a. It would permit us to use the term "University of Minnesota Health Sciences Center" in the advocacy of our development program; and
- b. It would formally initiate an intensive study of the administrative structure of the health sciences.

To date, the individuals and groups within the College of Medical Sciences with whom this proposal has been discussed have reacted favorably. This includes the Directors of the School of Nursing, School of Public Health and the University Hospitals and the Faculty Advisory Council and the Administrative Board of the Medical School. I believe that it is in the best interest of this College. Accordingly I plan to pursue it unless there are faculty objections that have not, to date, been made known to me. The purposes of this memorandum are to bring this matter to your specific attention and to elicit your comments. In particular, if you find the proposal objectionable, I need to hear from you by April 1. I am most grateful for your consideration.