



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

RUTLEDGE BUILDING

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January 9, 1974

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Members, Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Health Affairs Committee

Report of the Health Education Affairs Committee of the Higher Education Commission regarding University of South Carolina proposals to establish a post-graduate school of medicine at the University of South Carolina and a school of public health at the University of South Carolina.

The Committee, since receiving the proposals, has met and invited all interested parties including the University of South Carolina, the Medical University, and a representative of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, to comment on the proposals for the post-graduate medical school and the school of public health.

We have inquired into the services which would be offered and also into the possible complications resulting for other institutions if the University of South Carolina moved into the two programs which have been proposed. In addition, the requests for the new programs have been related to the report of the committee to study the delivery of health care in South Carolina, otherwise known as the Cathcart Smith report.

The members of the Health Affairs Committee of the Commission include three members who served on the Cathcart Smith Committee, and our report today is considered to be in harmony with that report.

Our recommendations to the Commission are as follows:

(A) Proposal for a post-graduate school of medicine.

The Committee recommends that the Commission on Higher Education not approve the proposal for a post-graduate school of medicine at the University of South Carolina at this time.

It is felt that a post-graduate medical school with proper academic and administrative resources should be related to an under-graduate school of

medicine. We believe, based on our own investigations, that the question of a second medical school at the University of South Carolina is undetermined at this time. The Commission has enunciated certain provisions that must be met, including legislative determination, before work can go forward on a second medical school at the University of South Carolina. We are informed also that the Veterans Administration will require a legislative determination before work can go forward on a second medical school. In view of the uncertainty of the establishment of a second medical school at this time, we cannot postulate that a post-graduate school of medicine at the University of South Carolina would ultimately be affiliated with an under-graduate school of medicine.

In addition, for a workable post-graduate medical school at the University of South Carolina, the Cathcart Smith Committee envisioned a constructive, positive and healthy relationship among the various institutions in the state involved in health education. The Committee does not feel that a positive and constructive relationship has been demonstrated at this time.

The need for geographical dispersion in the offering of post-graduate in-service medical education to the physicians in the state is one of keen concern to the Committee. We therefore recommend that the University of South Carolina and the Medical University plan a pilot cooperative program, under the auspices of the Medical University, to offer additional training opportunities for physicians in the Columbia area. Thus, the need for services and programs for practicing physicians in the Columbia area can be met, and at the same time a post-graduate medical school will not be built into the curriculum of the University of South Carolina. This pilot cooperative program will permit the University of South Carolina and the Medical University to demonstrate that a positive and healthy relationship between the institutions can be developed, a factor which is essential in the future development of health education in South Carolina.

Based on the above reasoning and justification, the Committee recommends that approval for a post-graduate school of medicine at the University of South Carolina be denied at the present time.

(B) Proposal to establish a school of public health at the University of South Carolina.

The Committee feels that the proposal for a school of public health at the University of South Carolina has considerable merit. The Committee attempted to determine the need for a school of public health, including consultation with the Department of Health and Environmental Control. It appears that the Department of Health and Environmental Control is strongly in favor of a school of public health, primarily so that its employees can take advantage of advanced training opportunities locally.

The Committee felt, however, that additional documentation of need, demand, and costs should be developed for the Commission. The Committee

accordingly recommends that the University of South Carolina be requested to develop such additional information for the Commission, in close consultation with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and then to resubmit the proposal at an early date for consideration by the Commission.

Mr. Fred R. Sheheen
Chairman

Mr. Hugh M. Chapman

Mr. Gedney M. Howe, Jr.

Dr. R. Cathcart Smith