

OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

Excerpt Concerning Optometric Education from Minutes of June 9, 1976,
Meeting of the Health Education Authority"Section III. Report of the Task Force on Optometric Education

"Mr. Davenport presented a report (attached as Exhibit A) on the meeting of the Task Force on Optometric Education held in Greenville on May 20. As background information, he explained that as a result of a well-documented study of optometric manpower needs in the Southern Region, the Southern Regional Education Board had proposed a regional school of optometry to serve Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. A policy statement concerning the formulation of the school had been prepared by staff representatives of the higher education agencies from the three states in consultation with representatives of the optometric associations. The policy statement was subsequently adopted by SREB and transmitted officially to the chief executive officers of higher education in the three states with the request that responses to the following questions be submitted in writing to SREB: Does your state wish to participate in the tri-state regional school of optometry and does your state wish to be considered as the host state in keeping with the guidelines outlined by the Policy Statement?

"The Task Force, at its May 20 meeting, adopted the following statements as recommendations to the Health Education Authority for transmittal to the Commission on Higher Education in time for its meeting on July 8: (1) that South Carolina should declare an interest in participating in the tri-state regional school of optometry proposed by the Southern Regional Education Board, and (2) that South Carolina should proclaim a desire to serve as the host state. Mr. Davenport also reported that the Task Force had favored the Medical University of South Carolina as the logical site for the proposed school, in accordance with the SREB recommendation that the school be located within a major academic health center; the Task Force, however, did not see that location as the exclusive possibility.

"The Commission has requested the Medical University to declare its present degree of interest in establishing a school of optometry. A letter has been forwarded to the Commission by President Knisely stating that MUSC wished to be considered as the host institution for the tri-state school of optometry. Dr. Knisely commented that the Chairman of the Ophthalmology Department was very supportive of optometry. He explained that HEA was not being asked today to endorse MUSC as the proposed site because this question would require further study by the Task Force. The Commission wanted to be assured of the interest of at least one institution within South Carolina in hosting the school before replying to SREB. It was moved (Mr. Davenport) and seconded (Dr. Donald) and unanimously voted that the recommendations of the Task Force be adopted."