

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

March 24, 1972

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL and
Allied Health Education

CO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27705
TELEPHONE - 919-286-0411 EXT. 571

TO: Dr. Kinney

FROM: Dale R. Lindsay *drl*

SUBJECT: Physician's Associate Program

1. This program is approaching a crisis composed of the following factors:
 - a. The program is financially dependent upon an as yet not awarded contract from the Bureau of Health Manpower Education, since other funding is phasing out;
 - b. Dr. Douglas Fenderson, Director, Office of Special Programs, BHME, assures me that they have every intention of implementing the contract since Duke is the prototype program of an effort designated as a "Presidential Initiative";
 - c. The contract proposal emphasizes that the primary objective is to make the program self-sustaining by 1977, with all eight other objectives listed as secondary;
 - d. Thus implementation of a deferred tuition plan is critical not only to the continued funding of the program, but also
 - e. Student candidate interviews are scheduled to begin April 7 at which time the prospective students should be advised of tuition requirements and arrangements.
2. As the material given you last week shows, Dr. Howard has been pressing for consideration of this issue for several months. You have quite correctly identified other issues which have precedence and I am attempting to develop assurance that those other issues will be resolved prior to the actual admission of students.
3. Toward that end I have requested designation of departmental representatives from the basic science departments to work with Dr. Howard's staff, Dr. Boeck, and myself in developing courses, including core courses suitable to other allied health programs, that are truly products of the departments. Dr. Estes has also been advised that the same standards will be required for clinical courses; such standards prerequisite to awarding the BHS degree.

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4. The result of these efforts will be departmentally endorsed course descriptions presented in the format used by the Bulletin of the Duke University Medical Center, and suitable for a separate Bulletin for Allied Health Programs. While non-degree programs (currently all other programs except for Physician's Associates and Physical Therapists) may have difficulty in meeting the same standards for course offerings, every effort will be made to bring them up to these standards as quickly as possible. Those not able to meet such standards very probably should not be continued under Duke sponsorship. Arrangements for such programs of value to Duke or VA clinical care programs can be made through affiliation with community and other colleges.
5. In a just completed telephone conversation with Walter Johnson I found that you had learned of other concerns regarding the P. A. program's proposed deferred tuition plan such as the excessive interest rate (8%), the probability that a very high percentage of the accepted candidates would need cost-of-living loans, and the impact that this would have on the availability of such loans to medical students. I am arranging with Mrs. Lyon for Dr. Howard and I to have a conference with you on Tuesday, March 28 to discuss some of these problems.
6. My personal belief is that the BHME will award the contract prior to our finalizing a deferred tuition program provided that we have definitely determined that such a program will be developed in time for next fall's admissions.