



AUSTIN--The University of Texas System Board of Regents Friday approved final plans and specifications for nearly \$34 million worth of campus construction to expand The University of Texas (Southwestern) Medical School at Dallas to accommodate a doubled enrollment of medical students.

Meeting in Austin, the Regents authorized the UT Office of Facilities Planning and Construction to seek bids on four major structures containing more than 600,000 gross square feet of space. The buildings comprise the remainder of UTSMS' \$40 million-plus expansion program, which will enable increasing the size of annual enrolling classes from 105 medical students to 200 by the fall of 1975.

Included are the Basic Sciences Teaching Building and connecting plaza with four lecture rooms; the Fred F. Florence Library and Biomedical Information Center; Academic-Administration Building; and Auditorium-Cafeteria.

Contracts are scheduled to be awarded by spring of 1971, with construction to be completed within a three-year timetable, University officials said.

Also approved Friday were plans for a new building to house the UTSMS Department of Ophthalmology, to cost an estimated \$247,383. The one-story stucco structure will be located west of existing school buildings and will house departmental offices, laboratories, an animal holding area and facilities for clinical teaching, clinical research and patient service.

Completion of the 7,792 gross-square-foot building is expected by next fall, UTSMS officials said. Ophthalmology facilities currently are housed in leased space in the nearby Callier Speech and Hearing Center.

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first add buildings

Upon completion of the longer-range Phase One expansion, the department will move into renovated space in the Cary Building, said Dr. John R. Lynn, professor and chairman of ophthalmology. The one-story structure then will become part of physical plant facilities.

With Friday's construction go-ahead, the Dallas medical school prepares to undergo its most significant transformation since its founding in barracks behind old Parkland Hospital on Maple Avenue during World War II.

The major new structures will be grouped around a T-shaped elevated plaza, north of existing buildings. Below the landscaped plaza will be lecture halls and corridors affording all-weather access between components of the school.

"We feel we have an exciting architectural solution to the fundamental requirements of our educational program," said Dr. Charles C. Sprague, UTSMS dean.

Dr. Sprague said the massive expansion is being undertaken in recognition of the fact that a shortage of physicians and professional health personnel is a major factor in what he termed "the current crisis in the delivery of adequate health care."

"Nationwide," he said, "there is an estimated shortage of 50,000 physicians--not counting those needed annually to keep pace with population growth. And Texas is far behind many other states, with only one physician for each 997 citizens as of 1968, compared to the national ratio of one to 680.

"We have a mandate from The University of Texas System Board of Regents, and from the people and their elected representatives, to redouble our efforts to overcome this shortage, and reverse the unfavorable physician-to-patient ratio in Texas," he said.

Already under construction as part of the school's Phase One program is a Basic Sciences Research Center. The \$7.3 million, five-level structure is due to be completed by the spring of 1972.

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second add buildings

Largest of the building packages approved Friday is the Basic Sciences Teaching Building and connecting plaza. This facility, containing 346,211 gross square feet, will cost an estimated \$21 million. A feature of the building will be multi-purpose, interdisciplinary laboratories serving individual students.

Providing a new landmark for the 54-acre campus on Harry Hines Blvd. will be the 12-story Academic-Administration Building, to house academic and administrative offices as well as business and service functions. The 57,456-square-foot building will cost an estimated \$2 million.

The Fred F. Florence Library and Biomedical Information Center will provide expanded space for a 200,000-volume library and computer facilities plus instructional communications and medical art and visual aids. The five-story building, with 162,225 gross square feet, is projected to cost \$7.3 million.

A 1,200 seat auditorium, the school's first such facility, will be built atop a 500-seat cafeteria at the northeast end of the plaza. The facility covers 61,894 gross square feet and estimated overall project cost is \$3.4 million.

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