THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

725 N. WOLFE STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21205

November 18, 1969

Dr. David E. Rogers
Office of the Dean

Dear Dave,

On Monday, November 17th, a meeting of the faculty members of the Department of Microbiology was held to discuss President Gordon's memorandum of October 13th concerning the proposed University Program in the Allied Health Sciences. Two letters I received from senior members of the department prompted me to call the meeting. The first, which Manfred Mayer wrote on October 27th, I forwarded to you on November 3rd. A copy of the second, which I received from Daniel Nathans last week, is attached.

At the meeting, all members of the department, except one, strongly endorsed the position taken by Drs. Mayer and Nathans. The one dissenting member, Patrick Murphy, was asked to summarize his views in writing, so that you might read them. His letter is also attached.

I am writing this letter to convey to you the overwhelming preference of the Microbiology staff for a separate School of Allied Health Sciences "right from the start". The reasons for this preference are clearly indicated in the Mayer-Nathans letters, with which I am in complete agreement.

The prolonged discussions of this important problem, which have dragged on for nearly 3 years, have been discouraging to all concerned. It now seems that the real reason for the inertia has been the reluctance of all of the faculties (Homewood, Hygiene, and Medicine) to become directly involved in the project, except in an advisory capacity.

This reluctance does not stem, in my opinion, from selfishness, short-sightedness, or a failure to appreciate the crying need for allied health personnel, but rather from a very genuine concern for the future of the University.

If the School of Medicine is forced to assume "the basic responsibility" for teaching allied health personnel, the general character of its faculty will have to change. And in time the change will inevitably drive away some of our most talented faculty members, who will prefer to go elsewhere to pursue the kinds of professional careers to which they are now dedicated.

The stakes in this decision are very high. I hope therefore that you and President Gordon will reconsider it with the greatest care and will leave open the possibility of creating a separate faculty for the Allied Health Sciences. If plans for a separate faculty were announced, I believe the general opposition to the program would disappear promptly, and we would then be able to get on with the job that needs so desperately to be done.

As I have already written to you, I forsee no difficulty in our sharing teaching facilities with a new faculty. Nor do I anticipate serious problems in our assuming a major advisory role in the planning of appropriate academic programs. It is only if the medical faculty is asked to assume the basic responsibility for the teaching that we will get into trouble.

Sincerely yours,

Barry

W. Barry Wood, Jr., M.D.

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