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Legislative Update: State legislators plan strategy for combination legislation

by William McMillen, Vice President for Governmental Relations

A bipartisan group of eight legislators who all represent parts of Lucas County met Jan. 13 to discuss the pending legislation that will combine MUO and the University of Toledo.



President Jacobs with state legislators Rep. Edna Brown, left; Sen. Teresa Fedor and Rep. Jeanine Perry.

signage by the governor.

Legislators attending the Toledo meeting included (in alphabetical order): Rep. Edna Brown (D), Sen. Teresa Fedor (D), Sen. Randy Gardner (R), Rep. Robert Latta (R), Rep. Jeanine Perry (D), Rep. Peter Ujvagi (D), and Rep. Mark D. Wagoner, Jr. (R).

Dr. Jacobs was impressed by the bipartisan sense of cooperation among the legislators.

"This was an important meeting that demonstrates the broad support that the combination is receiving from state government," he said. "Our local legislators are proving outstanding leadership."

MUO president **Dr. Lloyd A. Jacobs** and UT president Dr. Daniel Johnson attended the meeting.

Combination legislation has been drafted by the Legislative Service Commission in Columbus and is being finalized by the legislators, who anticipate a completed bill will be introduced in the Ohio House within a few days. Public hearings will then take place over a four-week period before the House votes.

If the bill is passed by the House, the Ohio Senate will then consider the bill and may also hold hearings.

Passage of the bill into law is expected by early spring following



UT President Dr. Daniel Johnson, left, and MUO President Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, right, pose with state legislators Rep. Mark D. Wagoner, Jr., second from left, and Rep. Robert Latta.