

1/20/06  
MERGER of MEDICAL COLLEGE 27a

# Ohio House bill advances plan for UT-MUO merger

## Measure by 2 area lawmakers saves cost issues for later talks

By **JIM PROVANCE**  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU

COLUMBUS — Toledo lawmakers yesterday hoped for swift passage as they introduced a bill that would grant the state's blessing on the marriage of the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio.

The merger is set for July 1, but the process of fully integrating the schools into one will be anything but swift. It will take until July 2, 2014, before the two boards of trustees are whittled down to a single, nine-member board.



**Wagoner**

The 68-page bill includes no transitional money for the merger, saving that issue for later budget debates. The two universities initially estimated the price tag to integrate technical systems, realign staffs, relocate programs, and other one-time costs at \$20 million.

The bill's sponsors, Reps. Mark Wagoner (R., Ottawa Hills) and Peter Ujvagi (D., To-

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■ **UT president talks about planned changes. Page 4.**

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ledo), said the appropriation is more likely to be between \$3 million and \$5 million.

"The amount of money available would affect the quickness with which we could do the integration," said Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of MUO and soon to be the new president of the combined schools.

"There will be pain, but I believe that this reasonable range of money available would still be OK for this thing to move forward," he said.

The first hearing on the bill is scheduled for Tuesday.

"This will create the third-largest budget university in Ohio with an approximately \$650 million budget to start with and a research base of approximately \$80 million," Ohio Regent James M. Tuschman (Toledo told his



**Ujvagi**

# UT leader says merger plan may shift programs to MUO

By KIM BATES  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

The president of the University of Toledo revealed some new details about the proposed merger of his institution with the Medical University of Ohio in his annual State of the University address on campus yesterday.

Dan Johnson told a crowd of hundreds of employees and community members that talks are under way to move certain UT programs in the colleges of health and human services and pharmacy to what is now MUO's campus in South Toledo.

"There is a compelling rationale for having our health programs together," he said.

As a result of those potential moves and a related need to "revisit the facility master plan," Mr. Johnson said he was placing a temporary moratorium on the planning and design of a new science building at UT that was intended to provide needed classroom and research space.

The two announcements were shared along with concrete concepts for dealing with the entire

transition process. Mr. Johnson said he expects that three entities — the boards of trustees at both schools, a joint operations steering committee, and a newly formed faculty senate group — will be charged with guiding the transition.

The steering committee will be made up of community members as well as other campus officials.

Mr. Johnson said in upcoming days officials will set up a public Web site that will track progress and events related to the merger.

The current proposal calls for the institutions to merge on July 1, with MUO President Dr. Lloyd Jacobs assuming the presidency of the combined school, and Mr. Johnson likely heading up the Toledo-area science and technology corridor.

A bill paving the way for the merger was introduced yesterday in the state legislature. Approval is required for it to take place.

Mr. Johnson repeatedly reminded those in attendance that the merger will not be without some difficulty.

"Change can be disruptive, and for that reason our natural instincts are to avoid it, sometimes even in the face of evidence that the outcome would be good and positive. We do face a period of change, but it is change that will bring about a stronger university. There will be some bumps in the road during the transition," he said.

"We should anticipate tough questions, hard decisions, and — from time to time — strong differences of opinions."

The president did not specifically tackle the topic of job loss related to the merger. He did say, though, that he expected some modifications to the executive structure of the administration and the organization of graduate studies. Other areas that will be modified include the president's cabinet, marketing and communications, the computer technology areas, and the budgeting process, he said.

Andy Jorgensen, faculty senate chairman, said he thought the president's speech "was a little more pointed in terms



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

**University of Toledo President Dan Johnson, left, and MUO President Dr. Lloyd Jacobs discuss a proposed merger of the two schools after Mr. Johnson's State of the University address.**

of the health programs on our campus" than past discussions have revealed. He said it's still not clear what will take place.

As for the future science building, Mr. Jorgensen said it is something faculty members will continue to push for — despite a temporary moratorium.

Dr. Lawrence Elmer, an MUO neurologist and president of the MUO faculty senate, said he doesn't sense any major objections being expressed by faculty at either university to a merger. "My feeling is that this is still very

positively being received by both campuses," he said.

Dr. Elmer said MUO and UT faculty have formed a joint 10-member committee, with five faculty members from each university, to provide input to administration officials and report back to the rest of the faculty. The committee will meet for the first time today.

*Blade staff writer Luke Shockman contributed to this report.*

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# UT-MUO merger bill sent to House

## Vote on measure could take place as early as Wednesday

By **JIM PROVANCE**  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU

COLUMBUS — A bill approving the merger of the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio continued its rapid dash for the finish line yesterday as a House committee voted unanimously to send it to the chamber floor.

The full House could vote on the measure as early as Wednesday, sending it to the Senate less than a month after it was introduced, a breakneck pace by Columbus standards.

The only amendment attached to the bill before it left committee was a promise that nonteaching employees who are members of the Public Employees Retirement System will remain members of that pension system after the merger.

Rep. Mark Wagoner (R., Ottawa Hills), the bill's sponsor, said advance work done by the universities has reduced controversy that otherwise might be expected with the merger of two schools into a single institution with a \$650 million annual budget and 21,000 students.

### Web site holds information for public

The University of Toledo and Medical University of Ohio have established a Web site they say will help keep the public informed about ongoing merger discussions between the two universities.

The site can be found at [www.utmuomerger.utoledo.edu](http://www.utmuomerger.utoledo.edu) or [utmuomerger.meduohio.edu](http://utmuomerger.meduohio.edu) and contains information about the merger, including public documents, news stories, and contact information. UT and MUO announced

in November they were exploring a merger, though the two institutions had been privately discussing such a proposal off and on for at least four years.

The merger idea has been endorsed by the boards of each university and the Ohio Board of Regents. A bill to allow the merger has been introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives but has not yet been voted on by the full House.

"The university presidents have answered a lot of the questions that have already come up," he said.

Although some employees of the schools and residents of nearby neighborhoods have expressed concern over what might happen after the two schools unite to create the third-largest university in Ohio's budget, no one opposed the bill before the House Fi-

nance Committee.

"Based on the experience of the University of Toledo when they expanded as far as Dorr Street, there's been concern about what further expansion may occur into some of those historic, middle-class, black neighborhoods like Secor Gardens," Rep. Peter Ujvagi (D., Toledo) said.

"I am absolutely committed to making sure that the neigh-

borhoods that have been there and worked very hard to make a quality of life in their communities will be protected during this process," he said.

Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, MUO president and soon to be president of the merged UT, assured the House committee last week that the university would not attempt to use eminent domain to condemn residential property between the two schools.

The merger is expected to take place July 1, but it would take until July 2, 2014, before the newly merged board of trustees would be whittled from 17 members to nine.

It remains to be seen how much one-time money the state will supply for the transition to help cover the costs of computer-system improvements, renovations, severance packages for some employees, and program realignments.

The General Assembly, however, is not expected to supply the full \$20 million that a study suggested it would take.

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# Senate votes for merger of UT, MUO

MERGER 27a

## Bill would form Ohio's third-biggest university

By **JIM PROVANCE**  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU

COLUMBUS — The Senate yesterday unanimously approved the merger of the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio, and Gov. Bob Taft plans to complete the process by signing the bill into law on March 31.

The unprecedented marriage of two major universities into the third-largest higher-education institution in the state's budget will have completed its rapid journey from bill introduction to the governor's signature without a single negative vote.

"This is a plan that makes total sense," said Sen. Dale Miller (D., Cleveland), who, as a recently appointed transplant from the House, is the only lawmaker to vote for the UT merger in both chambers. While he praised the merger as "rational" and "well-conceived," he sounded a cautionary note on the state of higher education in Ohio.

"Ohio remains an under-educated state," he said. "The percentage of adults who have college degrees is several points below the national average. The percentage of high school graduates who go on to college is also below the national average."

"While I would certainly think

### WHAT'S NEXT

■ Gov. Bob Taft plans to complete the merger by signing the bill into law on March 31.

■ The marriage of the two universities will make it the third-largest higher-education institution in the state. The new UT will have a \$650 million annual budget and 21,000 students.



Taft

■ The merger is set to officially take place on July

1, but will not be truly complete until the newly merged board of trustees is whittled from 17 members to nine by July 2, 2014.

■ The bill does not provide money to help the two universities with the costs of uniting the institutions. The costs have been estimated to be as high as \$20 million.

that moves like this ought to be able to save the state of Ohio a significant and meaningful amount of dollars, I think there's no substitute for proper state public support for higher edu-

MERGER w/ MEDICAL  
UNIV OF OHIO. 27a 4/1/06

# UT-MUO merger is signed into law

## Landmark consolidation to occur July 1

By **JOSHUA BOAK**  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Amid the suits who watched Gov. Bob Taft approve the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio merger yesterday, the "Blue Crew" stood out.

Unlike the politicians, administrators, trustees, and teachers gathered at the ceremony at

■ **UT law school gets new dean. Page B1.**

UT's University Hall, they wore fluorescent wigs, masks, and navy painter overalls — outfits rarely seen when legislation is signed.

And if yesterday's speeches were accurate, the fate of Ohio's economy depends on the sort of people who would join the secretive Blue Crew: college students.

"The next Mike Owens or Michelle Owens is out there today, maybe on campus, maybe even sitting in the third row with a blue wig on," said State Rep. Mark Wagoner (R., Toledo), referring to the legacy of glass expert Michael Owens, who founded Owens-Illinois, Inc.

On July 1, MUO and UT will officially become one school,



THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

**Gov. Bob Taft, seated, signed the merger into law. Standing from left are UT President Dan Johnson, state Rep. Mark Wagoner, MUO President Lloyd Jacobs, MUO trustee Chairman George Chapman, state Rep. Peter Ujvagi, state Sen. Teresa Fedor, and state Sen. Randy Gardner.**

educating more than 23,000 students. With a combined 7,000 employees and a budget of \$650 million, it will be the state's third-largest university and the source of hope that Toledo, a city strained by unemployment and corporate bankruptcies, can still compete globally.

The University of Toledo will be the name of the merged institution, although its Gothic revivalist main campus could be rechristened the Ottawa River Campus, the Ottawa Campus, Bancroft Campus, or Old Or-