

J. Jerry Rodos, D.O.

---

5204 S. Lawn Avenue  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
(312) 246-8726

2 Feb 85

Dear Bill,

YOUR letter of last Fall is not being ignored. It has been a very busy year -as you know some are a bit more hectic than others. I have also spent the time mulling over the grouping of the information and comments.

First, I must comment on your rather optimistic assesment of what we have done. To date, Saint Francis College has been preserved, a university created and NECOM established. It is much too early to evaluate the quality of this effort. Or, if it survives, wheather it fulfills the mission for which it was established. NECOM's goals were lofty, its program objectives unique, and its support dependent on the very delicate fabric of a multistate and multi DO committment in a pre-Flexnerian model. We had no illusions-we felt it couldn't be accomplished in a traditional structure for medical schools. I think we were correct. Time will tell. Remember, Dartmouth is quite succesful-but fails to meet the goals of its founders.

For the sake or our communications I am going to divide the NECOM history into the following phases:

Phase I -<sup>that</sup> Organization. From the first meeting that Bob Brown convened to the point at which the decision was made to locate at St. Francis.

Phase II -The Decision. The details of all the alternatives that were studied, the debate over free standing vs university. The reasons St Francis was chosen. The agreement with the Acting President and administrative officers.

Phase III -NECOM . The appointment of the Dean. Mission. Accreditation. Start-up. Faculty. Changes from original plans. First Class. ETC..

Bill, the collection of history around the St Francis decision is among the important issues. Criticism then and now of this one decision suggests the importance of documenting the various pieces that made up the gestalt of this item.

Much of this data should be at the College. Deb Reed and I went thru the material that was there which included NEFOM Board notes, reports of the site visit committees, lists of available campuses

J. Jerry Rodos, D.O.

---

5204 S. Lawn Avenue  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
(312) 246-8726

2

that was supplied by NEBHE and included the costs of assuming the mortgage or purchase. There was oodles of material there. You probably Already have it.

I do have some material here with me. Much more is still in R.I. at the Kennel. When I get there this month I'll try to get the notes, minutes, and correspondence together. In the mean time i shall gather my notes on Phase I and try to have them to you before the end of March.

Hope all is going well for you. My best wishes for the New Year,

Franternally,