Medical Dept. to gain space in move east

By Lenny Martin

Space problems that have plagued the Medical Department for a decade will end when it moves into a wing of the planned health services complex, says Dean of Graduate School Kenneth Wadleigh and Medical Director Melvin Rodman.

Most of the Medical Department will move from buildings II, 12, and 5W to a wing near the Main Street fire station which will join at right angles with the new Whitaker College of Health Sciences, Technology, and Management.

"The whole thing is a result of rapid growth over the years," Wadleigh explained.

Portions of the Medical Department slated to remain where they are include the Environmental Medical Service and the Division for Laboratory Animal Medicine.

"We're right on time," Rodman said. "The big problem is getting the Certificate of Need," added Wadleigh, who said the obstacle has been cleared since November.

Certain federal laws applicable to the project are advisory rather than controlling in states that had operable laws before the federal ones passed. Such is the case here. Although the proposal has been federally approved for a year, the need certificate from Massachusetts represented final approval.

With respect to the possibility of reduced accessibility, Wadleigh noted that the Medical Department would have preferred to remain more centrally located if it had not been constrained by reality. He further pointed out that a new Kendall/MIT subway station entrance closer to east campus is planned and that the Institute will be growing mainly towards that end of campus.

Rodman agreed that the new medical facilities may be less easily accessible than the old but stressed the benefits of spaciousness and of increased interaction among health services facets.

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