Funds

has more than one state supported medical school, and seven have no medical school.

Hendricks said funds could be better used for scholarships on the condition that the students receiving scholarships would practice medicine in the state a few years after they graduate.

"These alternatives were studied in depth before we set forth with the medical school," Patterson said.

The accreditation team from the American Medical Association (AMA), American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) will visit USC in April, and the final decision on provisions for accreditation is expected in June. If medical school funding seems uncertain, "I suspect it may have some adverse effect," Patterson said.

Former Medical School Dean William Adams Smith said he thinks the accreditation agency would expect to see "the unequivocal support of the funding agency."

Medical School Dean Dr. Francis L. Abel was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Patterson has sent letters to each member of the General Assembly answering some questions about the medical school.

One question concerns present and future medical school costs. The state has spent $1.1 million, and the estimated cost for the next five years is $12.4 million.

When fully operational, the medical school's yearly cost is expected to be $14 million, compared to a national average of $23.5 million.

The school also expects to be bringing in $20-35 million annually in federal grants. The university would receive an additional $10 million for other expenses.

Hendricks said USC is the only university that has taken up the VA's offer to fund medical schools. If it was such a good deal, how come nobody else has done it? he said. However, four other universities have taken up the VA offer and have started medical schools. They are Wright State at Dayton, Ohio, Texas A M and Baylor in Texas, Marshall University at Huntington, W. Va., and East Tennessee State. Wright State expects to admit its first class this fall.

Hendricks also said the state has not received any federal money. However, Yeawo said $4.6 million in federal funds has been spent so far for the medical school.

There have also been questions raised about the medical school's accreditation, and Hendricks pointed out the school is not fully accredited. However, no medical school receives full accreditation until it graduates its first class.

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