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USF comes clean with recycling program

Mitch Fields stands with a bin of paper in Printing Services that will be sent to the recycling plant. Proper separation of material is essential to the recycling process.

The national accrediting body for Medicine, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, visited the institution in January and recommended a full seven-year accreditation. But on May 3, the LCME advised USF President Francis T. Borkowski of its intent to place the educational program leading to the M.D. degree on probation pending new visits in each of the next two years. Under LCME rules, however, probation would not take effect until a lengthy appeals process is ended. Hearings are scheduled for September and October, and USF will go into the hearing having addressed most of the problems cited by the LCME.

College of Medicine is confident of overcoming probation threat

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College of Medicine faculty, students and administrators are pursuing their appeal of the intent by a national accrediting body to place the college on probation.

"We look forward to being able to demonstrate the energy and commitment by a widely based group of faculty, students and administrators toward addressing the criticisms," said Dr. Ronald P. Kaufman, vice president for Health Sciences and interim dean of the College of Medicine.

In its appeal to the LCME, the college argued that the LCME's criticisms were insufficient to place the medical program on probation. "USF's College of Medicine cannot from any perspective be considered unacceptable," said Dr. Marvin R. Dunn, interim vice dean. "The college's students have an outstanding record of success, a record of which numerous fully accredited medical schools would be envious.

"For example, for the years 1985 to 1989, the students have performed above the national mean in National Board of Medical Examiners' tests. In addition, our students consistently obtain superior residency locations."

During the past few months, the college has used the occasion of the LCME's criticisms to refine many of its courses and programs. In August, the college held a retreat with 42 representatives of the student body, faculty, chairmen and administration to work toward broad-based agreement on the college's mission, goals and objectives.

The retreat was followed by an Open Forum for faculty, students and staff to express their views of the college's future. "Both the retreat and forum demonstrated clearly that all concerned parties are working together to define much-needed goals to guide the college in coming years," said Dunn.

The college's response to the LCME has involved major changes. Among the most important changes are the increased participation of the Faculty Council and the refinement of courses in the first two years of medical school.