

able one-time fee paid only upon formal acceptance.")

The AUC is not approved for participation in the federal guaranteed student loan program, so students must find other sources for their tuition payments. Those who have obtained student loans in the past must also begin repaying them, or risk being charged with default. This, ac-

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cording to Tien, is "a big problem," but in his view it is not AUC's problem. The school applied for participation in the federal program last fall, and has not yet heard whether it will be accepted or rejected, Tien said in February.

However, Joseph M. Hardman of HEW's Office of Education said AUC applied in December and was then notified by his office that as long as the school was operating in Ohio it would be considered as a domestic institution and would have to comply with the requirements for U.S. schools.

In the meantime, applications are coming into that office from other Caribbean-based schools, and one pending from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada will have to be acted on soon. At the same time, HEW officials have become concerned about the number of schools springing up in the Caribbean catering to U.S. students, and the number of loans already being given to students studying medicine in foreign schools — for example, more than 2,300 students at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara School of Medicine have loans, and more than 1,000 at the Universidad Central del Este in the Dominican Republic have loans. In the past, no specific criteria for evaluating such foreign schools have been spelled out, but the whole procedure is undergoing a high-level review within HEW.

While loans are being provided for students at about 100 foreign medical schools, HEW officials say the United States is facing a possible surplus of physicians in the near future and wants U.S. schools to cut enrollments. In fact, under the administration's proposed budget for 1980, a major source of financial support for U.S. medical schools — capitation grants — would be eliminated entirely.

Asked whether those new U.S. policies might affect AUC students' chances for re-

turning to this country, Tien said he didn't think so. Besides, he said, "We set up the school not only to serve the market demand, but also to serve the people who are interested in that field, that career. Right now, so many young people . . . are interested in a medical career. I think there is still a high demand for this type of education. . . . I don't think there is any decline at all of this kind of demand, of personal interest in this area."

Tien waxes enthusiastic about AUC's future in Montserrat, in particular his \$6 million building program. In court papers, Tien said the first phase of that program — student housing — was to be financed by "written, enforceable [sic] pledges in the total amount of approximately \$3 million" from "personal friends in Taiwan and various islands of the British West Indies." Money spent by AUC so far, he told this reporter, has come from donations and from student tuitions. He declined to identify those providing financial support for the school.

Tien also declined to identify the U.S. medical educators he said helped him design the curriculum because revealing their names might "jeopardize their jobs" at other universities here. He says he has had constant consulting help from medical educators, whose names he declined

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to release. He also declined to identify AUC's board of trustees, which he says is small and has no members who live in the United States. "Some live in the West Indies, and some in some Asian countries," he said, adding that the board of trustees will be expanded as soon as the school moves to Montserrat.

The recent change in government on Montserrat will have no effect on the agreements Tien signed with then chief minister P.A. Bramble, which include tax concessions and arrangements for leasing about 95 acres of land, Tien said. And the fact that AUC is not alone in the Caribbean does not disturb him.

The AUC, he says, has no connection and is not cooperating with any of the other offshore schools, although the government of Montserrat is encouraging AUC to work closely with the University of the West Indies School of Medicine. Tien hopes AUC will eventually become registered, through a new reciprocity law affecting British Commonwealth countries, with the British General Medical Council — although he did not know when that law might go into effect. □

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