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"Evening At the Profs II" — success

By Darlene Campbell
Staff Writer

Have you ever felt that attending a major university like the University of North Carolina has stripped you of your individuality? Are you tired of being known in class by your I.D. number only? Do you desire a more relaxed, informal relationship with your professors? These are just some of the problems that the Carolina Union Special Projects Committee addressed February 5 with "Evening At The Profs II."

"Evening At The Profs II" was sponsored by the Carolina Union Special Projects Committee because it was the desire of the committee to promote better faculty/student interaction at UNC. The night consisted of students meeting at the houses of certain faculty members and administrators, at which they were given the chance to discuss various cam-

pus issues informally. After receiving encouraging comments from students who had attended a similar program that was formulated last fall, the committee decided to sponsor "Evening At The Profs II."

Unlike "Evening At The Profs I," which was held November 6, 1983, "Evening At The Profs II" had no set agenda. Students were encouraged to express their ideas freely. Sixty professors divided themselves among 20 different faculty homes. Although all departments at UNC were not represented, the students had the chance to interact with many professors in an informal atmosphere.

"It was good because students got to see the professors outside of class, thus allowing them the chance to see the professor as more than a lecturer," said Jamie Fox, a sophomore political science major from Richmond, Ky.

Fox, a member of the Special Projects Committee, said that student/faculty interaction can make a difference if we put the effort into it. "This was one of the few opportunities that the students, especially those in math and science, had to get to know the professors," Fox said.

Although only a small percentage of minority students had attended "Profs I", this time the committee publicized "Profs II" through the Greek fraternities and sororities and the Black Student Movement. "If there is going to be discussion on what's going on around campus, then it is just logical to have everyone participating," Fox said.

The participating faculty members and administrators included vice chancellor of University Affairs Harold Wallace, vice chancellor and dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton and several faculty

members from various UNC departments. Ten percent of the participating faculty members were black while fifteen percent were female.

The committee, which is headed by John Reckford is one of nine Union committees. Unlike the other eight committees, the Special Projects Committee is not defined by special guidelines. Its purpose is to receive programs or other issues that the other Union Committees cannot handle. One future plan of the committee includes a retreat in the spring, during which students, faculty and administrators will spend a weekend planning programs for next year.

"Although it's only in the beginning stages now, it, like the student/faculty interaction program, will take an initial effort on both sides," Fox said. ■



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