

F.S.U. LEADS IN INCREASE BUT

ENROLLMENT DROPS REPORTS N.C. COLLEGES

College enrollment statistics for this period tend to bear out reports that many of North Carolina's private colleges are in serious trouble.

Student enrollment dropped in 24 of the state's 41 private institutions, according to statistics released by the State Board of Higher Education.

The decline contrasts with an overall statewide increase in the number of students attending colleges by 8,350 students -- making a total of 140,485 students attending Tar Heel colleges.

In several of the private institutions, enrollment dropped as much as 12 percent. Dr. Cameron West, director of the higher education board, said, "Most new students are going to public institutions -- and they are not making the choice for qualitative reasons."

Higher costs have been cited as the major factor in the shift from private to public colleges in recent years. A recent report by the board of higher education disclosed that 17 of the state's 42 private institutions face budget deficits this year, and that there are an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 vacant spaces in the private schools.

Recommendations for some type of legislative aid to the private insti-

tutions may be contained in another higher board report expected this month.

According to the statistics, enrollment of college students in the public institutions increased 9.7 per cent, but only .4 percent in the private institutions. Losses were heavy in many schools: Livingstone College, down from 809 to 720, 11 per cent. The enrollment increased at Fayetteville State University, up from 1,137 to 1,419, 24.8 per cent.

of the Faculty Assembly met with the Student Government Association a few days before the mass meeting and told of the various difficulties the faculty is having with President Lyons. He mentioned that Lyons disregarded suggestions or opinions from the faculty for school improvements, and told the faculty members to leave FSU if they did not like the situation. He also mentioned at the SGA meeting that the catch-up funds have not been used to aid in teachers' salaries, although President Lyons stated that they have.

Another general problem discussed was the seemingly lack of organization and professional ethics of the president's administration. Students, as well as faculty and heads of the various departments, have had much difficulty obtaining supplies. No direct answer is ever given to inquiries about anything. When the change in business manager was undertaken, the President had "His Boy" move into the office of the old business manager, and changed the lock on the door. The old business manager came to work one morning, discovered he could not get into his office, so realized that the power structure had struck again. He was placed into a "peace offering" office in the upstairs back corner of the administration building. The students had closed down the administration building in 1968 in a demonstration to obtain, among other things, free or unlimited cuts in classes. President Lyons, ignoring the students' rights, informed the parents that suddenly there was no longer an unlimited cut system. The new business manager has already shown his ineffectiveness by never being in his office (wasn't he the chaplain in "Catch-22?"), and by issuing wholesale statements to the parents in December that their children owed more money to the business office, when in truth there had been errors in computing the records. It is rumored that teachers are leaving en masse, as a result of the conditions brought about by President Lyons. Some of the teachers realized the situation last year, and have already gone. Many more are contemplating turning in their resignations now. The President has said that he has not received any notification of teachers who are planning to leave shortly; these same teachers are positive their notices have reached his desk. Something must be really wrong for the teachers to leave the investments they have made in homes and teaching careers in Fayetteville. In the mass meeting, Mr. Nesby said, "It is getting to the point that the teachers don't care any more." One of the students mentioned that this school may soon be on the black list of the teachers association, as a result, fewer teachers than ever will consider teaching here at FSU. The students were informed in the meeting that it is difficult for a teacher to directly inform the students of the conditions. If a teacher were to speak to a crowd of students, even in telling them the truth, that teacher would be held by the law as inciting a riot if some of the students ever took it upon themselves to confront the source of trouble after the meeting.

Another new development mentioned was the sudden surge of "goodwill visits" by the President to the dorms. As Mr. Nesby stated, "Lyons has been walking around waving his hand; what does he think he is, a Nixon?" In one of these dormitory meetings a female student asked the President if he thought he was the problem at FSU. He responded by stating, "I am not a problem to anyone." Some of the improvements Lyons has initiated in Vance Hall seem to be peace maneuvers. These things should have been done long ago. In his visits around campus, Lyons is as evasive as ever when confronted with any direct questions.

Mr. Nesby told of President Lyons' attempts to stop the meeting of students. The students wanted the dining hall closed during the time of the meeting to encourage more students to attend, as well as make them aware of the meeting. President Lyons, fearing a mass student gathering and unity, informed the director of the dining hall that he was NOT to close during the meeting. President Lyons, as well as the other members of his administrative staff, was conveniently out of their offices the morning of the mass meeting. It seems they are afraid of a direct confrontation with the student body representatives.

The accreditation was also mentioned. In a meeting in Harris Hall as part of President Lyons' emergency last-ditch-effort goodwill gesture, he was asked about the accreditation of FSU. He stated that, "As far as I know, the school is accredited." One would think that the president of an institution of higher learning would be the man to know the standing of his school. The Southern Association does not meet until December, 1971, so we are only temporarily accredited.

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THE VOICE



FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6 FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. FEBRUARY 15, 1971

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AFTER MASS RALLY

Students petition for Dr. Lyons' resignation

By SUE MALONEY

February 3, 1971, the students of Fayetteville State University filled the auditorium and decided to present their grievances to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education (Raleigh), at the same time asking for the resignation of the president, Dr. Charles Lyons. Several hundred students will sign the petitions; and there is no doubt that a vast majority of the entire student body was present.

The capacity crowd of anxious and angry students flowed from the floor of the auditorium into the balcony, with many students left standing around the aisles. It was obvious that they were of one mind and very interested in getting themselves organized. The Student Government president, James Nesby, presided over the meeting which was closed to all members of the faculty or administration. In this manner, it was plain that the meeting was an authorized group -- the student body under the leadership of the Student Government Association, not some hot-headed faction.

The first problem mentioned was the meaning of the new University status for Fayetteville State. Mr. Nesby informed the students of the 1962 report given to the North Carolina General Assembly concerning recommendations to unify all state colleges and universities into regional schools which would all be under the ultimate control of one board of trustees. This board would be made of 100 members: 49 from UNC, 49 from other colleges, the Governor, and Lt. Governor. Control would be from the white institutions. Funding would be determined by need; therefore, the large white institutions which already have such programs as engineering and law would receive more money, and the small black schools which do not have such programs would be dismissed as not needing any additional funds. In this manner, the black students who wish to attend graduate school would be forced to go to a white institution and pay increased tuition. The black schools would be reduced to under-graduate liberal arts or teaching programs. The results would be fewer opportunities for blacks to be educated at a lower cost. These long-range results of the new program and organization were not explained to the students. They were only told by President Lyons that they would receive more money if Fayetteville State were to become part of UNC. It was not mentioned that if the standards were raised, more white students would attend; and in time, FSU would be a white institution, leaving poor black students out in the cold.

Another problem mentioned was the discrepancy between the views of President Lyons and the President of the Faculty Assembly. In the first place, Dr. Lyons DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE of the faculty assembly which is composed only of the teaching professors, simply because he does not have a list of their members, and their president is not the president of the faculty association. When confronted by the accusations in the last issue of THE VOICE, President Lyons said the problems did not exist with the catch-up funds. The President