

Report shows concern for quality of higher education

By WENDY BOUNDS
Staff Writer

Professors across the nation are deeply concerned about the declining academic quality in colleges and universities and the increasing emphasis on research for faculty advancement, according to a report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The report, "The Condition of the Professoriate: Attitudes and Trends, 1989," recorded the opinions of more than 5,000 faculty randomly selected

across the United States. The survey asked questions on various topics ranging from the goals of collegiate education and academic standards to research requirements and views of the administration.

Received data shows faculty disappointment in students and academic trends both in and out of the classrooms:

- Faculty feel grade inflation is a serious problem and by a two-to-one margin they said today's students were more willing to cheat in order to get

good grades;

- Two-thirds who answered said today's students were not well prepared in the basics and concluded that their institutions spent too much time and money on what should have been learned in high school.

- Eighty-four percent say undergraduates have become careerists in their concerns.

Donald Misch, assistant dean of Arts and Sciences at UNC, said he could discern a trend towards more concentrated efforts for studying on the behalf

of students.

"There seems to be a heavier emphasis for students to do those things that are only absolutely necessary or related to their professional goals," he said.

However, this emphasis is necessary in the cases of pre-med and pre-dental students, according to Lawrence Gilbert, chairman of the Biology Department at UNC.

"These students have always been career-oriented, but they work very hard. They are not apathetic to other subjects, they simply are working to

get into medical or dental school."

Another major concern of faculty reported by the survey was that the reward system at their institutions was heavily weighted toward published research, not effective teaching.

The emphasis universities place on research has long been a source of tension between faculty and administration, said Misch.

"There are those here that don't feel teaching has been sufficiently rewarded and yet there are also those who feel research improves their teaching abilities.

Teaching is necessary, but not sufficient for advancement."

Roger Waud, professor of economics at UNC, thinks there is not enough publishing occurring at UNC.

"What would you teach a student if there was no researching?" he said. "You can't just bring him in and give him your opinions, especially at the graduate level."

There is also the false assumption that all people who do research are not good teachers, Waud said.

"The contention that research is done at the expense of teaching is made by those individuals who can't or don't care to do any research. They use this excuse to justify why they don't do any research."

Approximately two-thirds of the faculty rated the administration at their campus either "fair" or "poor."

Misch attributed most administrative problems on the UNC campus to failings with the whole UNC-system.

"I think the bottom line is that the UNC-system is tight for money and there is little leeway for what the administration can do for the faculty."

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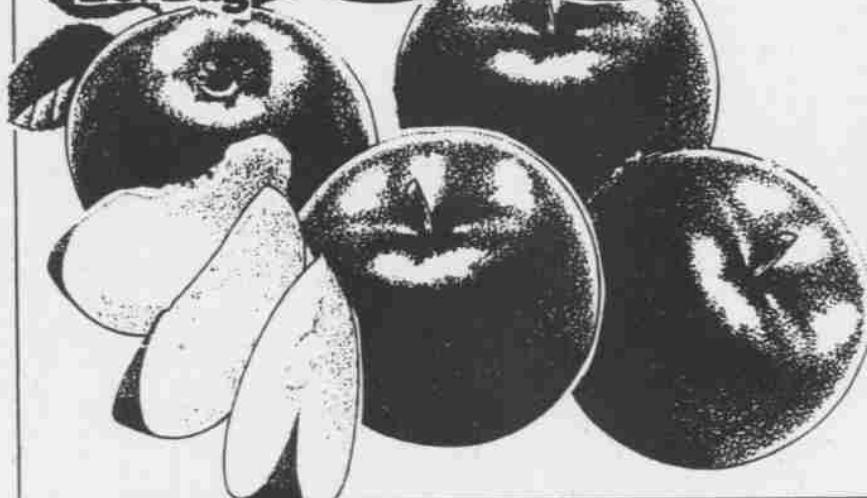
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Democrats seek audit of governor

By ALAN MARTIN
Staff Writer

N.C. Democrat and Republican Party leaders are exchanging rhetorical fire in the aftermath of allegations of campaign impropriety by Gov. Jim Martin before the 1988 gubernatorial election.

The governor's Research Office maintained a file of the public positions and statements of Martin's principal opponent, former Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, said Tom Ballus, director of communications at the N.C. Republican Headquarters. The file covered more than 50 issues and especially noted instances when Jordan may have made inconsistent or contradictory statements.

This file was made available to the governor throughout the campaign. The cause for the uproar is the maintenance of the file by the government office at taxpayer's expense.

Martin is being asked by the N.C. Democratic Party Chairman Lawson Davis to conduct an audit to determine exactly how much tax money was used to compile the file on Jordan and to reimburse that amount to the state from his campaign funds, said Arch Laney, director of communications at the N.C. Democrat Party headquarters.

He said Democrats would make an issue of the alleged unethical behavior in future campaigns against Martin unless he had an audit and reimbursed the State Treasury.

As precedent for paying the state for resources used for partisan political purposes, Laney cited the actions of former Gov. Jim Hunt in his campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1984. Hunt took several trips on a state owned jet while on state business. However, he did some campaigning while on these trips, so he paid the state a sum in excess of \$100,000 to keep from spending tax dollars for personal political gain, he said.

While the Democratic Party refuses to speculate that the election might have taken a different course had this information been public knowledge, Davis said it "would have impacted the voters."

Martin and the Republican Party, however, have said the existence of the file and its maintenance and availability to the governor are all legitimate and necessary functions of the administration of state government. It is of vital importance that the governor be kept informed of current issues and the positions of various leaders on the issues, Ballus said.

The Research Office also kept similar files on many issues and leaders, he said.

The fact that the governor had this information in no way affected the outcome of the election, Ballus said. "He (Martin) used the information disparagingly in his campaign — and besides, (the election) wasn't even close."

Neither Gov. Martin nor the Republican Party have any intention of answering Davis' call for reimbursement even in the face of Democratic threats to make an issue of the situation in future campaigns, Ballus said. "The governor is not worried about this. He certainly isn't going to pay for information with campaign funds he didn't use in the campaign."

"This is just a political stunt by Lawson Davis. The Democrats are despairing for a leader right now, and these accusations are just a ploy by Davis to rise to prominence on the state political scene."

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"Brien has spoken with me about the possibility of remaining, and I have encouraged him to do so," Davis said. "He has been a very effective student leader, and his effectiveness could only increase if he stays for a second term."

Lewis said that even though the second term in office would not result in personal gain for him, he would like to stay.

"I will be happy with either decision because I enjoy it enough and I think I do a good enough job to stay."