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Spangler's use of funds questioned

By DAVE GLENN

Editor

North Carolina state legislators said Wednesday that they question UNC-system President C.D. Spangler's use of a \$1.6 million reserve fund.

One item in particular — \$48,000 to finance a caterer who served at special events sponsored by the president — caught the eye of senators and representatives throughout the state.

"I question whether or not they should use taxpayers' money for something like that (a caterer)," said Senator Richard Chalk (R-Guilford).

"That is a very liberal interpretation of the use of that fund."

Because the money was non-restrictive, meaning it did not have strict guidelines governing its use, Spangler violated no federal guidelines with his allocations, which were approved by the governor's budget office.

"That fund is a non-designated fund," Spangler said. "The money comes from the federal government primarily, as is the case with most grants, and part of it goes to overhead costs."

Responding to printed reports that

the fund was targeted for "indirect costs for academic research," Spangler said: "That is simply not true."

Spangler said events at his home "have been used for having people gather to talk about education and to determine ways that things can be done better at the University." He said he has had more than 6,000 guests in the past three and a half years.

Rep. David Diamont (D-Surry), chairman of the the House appropriations committee, said he questioned the timing of the expenses.

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Staff benefits lag at UNC

By SARAH CAGLE

Assistant Editor

An interim report released at the UNC Board of Trustees meeting Friday showed that University employee benefits are not competitive with benefits offered by other research universities and area businesses.

Similar reports by the UNC Faculty Welfare Committee and the UNC Board of Visitors have already concluded that the University needs to strengthen its benefits to attract better faculty and staff.

According to this latest report, the biggest weakness is in the relatively large employee contribution required for retirement and insurance benefit packages.

"The benefits, per se, are not bad," said Dr. Timothy Sanford, director of the Office of Institutional Research and chairman of the fringe benefits advisory committee.

But University employees pay nearly one-half of all contributions to retirement programs, while other universities and Triangle businesses make almost 100 percent of the contributions to employee retirement programs.

When the University first began its retirement and insurance programs, it was among the forerunners in fringe benefits, but now other institutions have caught up.

"Many years ago the state picked up the costs for employees," Sanford

said. "Now everyone does that. Now most employees not only provide health care for employees, but also provide subsidies for their dependents."

Hewitt Associates of Atlanta, who prepared the report, also surveyed 1,000 University employees about what changes need to be made in the benefits packages.

"We're coming up with recommendations to the chancellor," Sanford said. "We will try to come up with a package by the end of the summer."

Although the report targets retirement and insurance as areas to im-

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Tar Heel/Sarah Cagle

Sorting things out

Jane McMannis sifts stones and animal bones out of the soil at UNC-sponsored archaeological dig in Hillsborough. Story, p.11.

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UNC police officer denies favoritism

By SARAH CAGLE

Assistant editor

Lt. Willie Bell of the University police denied allegations by attorney Alan McSurely that Bell received special consideration in a March 18 promotion and that he had threatened to "sue" the University.

McSurely represents four police officers who filed a grievance alleging that Bell was promoted so he would drop another grievance with the department.

"There was never a deal, as they claim, discussed between me or any University official or director Robert Sherman," Bell said Tuesday.

Bell said he never filed any grievances with the department. "The only thing I ever did was write a letter asking what I needed to work on," he said. "I never said I would file a law-

suit. That's very unprofessional."

Bell, a 10-year veteran with the department, said he has been applying for promotions since 1985 and was well-qualified to receive this promotion.

Bell said other officers put his name on a grievance, filed by 14 officers in 1987, without his consent. "I never turned up at the meetings," Bell said. "I guess they felt like I was going along with that. I just didn't see that."

Bell said that he holds nothing against the officers who filed the grievance, but that using his race against him is a "copout."

"I never used my race for a promotion," Bell said. "If you do that, everyone will start doing it. That was just a low blow."

Sherman said Bell never filed a

grievance with the department, but asked what he could do to improve his chances for a promotion. "I suggested that he further his college education and take classes in public speaking and community relations," Sherman said.

Bell said he is working toward a degree in criminal justice. "I don't complain," he said. "I just try to get better."

Officer Keith Edwards said it is untrue that Bell never filed a grievance. "He filed three grievances," Edwards said. "I was there and I know for a fact because I wrote them for him."

Edwards has a two-year-old grievance with the department alleging that she has been the victim of gender and race discrimination. Edwards said Bell filed a grievance when Lt. Danny

Caldwell was promoted over him.

Bell made a distinction between writing a letter to Sherman and filing a grievance with the department. "When the panel chose Danny, I wrote Sherman a letter asking him to correct me," Bell said. "That wasn't the first time. That was the third time I applied for a position, and I thought I needed to get on track."

Bell said if there was favoritism in the department, he would have been promoted a long time ago. "That special consideration is a bunch of false statements on somebody's part," he said. "Somebody just put that in (the grievance) to scare somebody."

The grievance filed over Bell's promotion was denied in a step 2 hearing, McSurely said. The four officers involved will appeal the decision.