

NU administrator denying charges

by JAN PARKS

Nebraskan Staff Writer

A University Teachers College dean has denied charges that the college administration avoids change and is unresponsive to student suggestions.

Most of the criticisms made by a Teachers College Advisory Board member in the April 17 Daily Nebraskan were based on distorted and inaccurate facts, said Norman F. Thorpe, associate dean of Teachers College.

The article relates that Pat Tisdale, an Advisory Board member, had been called into Thorpe's office after she had attended the first meeting of concerned Teachers College students to research ideas on how to improve the college.

"I did request to speak with her," Thorpe said, "although my motive was not to find out everything about the group. I wanted to talk to her because I had heard that a staff member from another college was working with the group. She said this was not true, and that was all I asked her."

Thorpe denied a charge that Teachers College administration is deaf to the demands of students.

"From visiting other schools, I have a feeling we are as sensitive to students' suggestions as are most other schools," he said.

"We recognize the Advisory Board as a representative body of students," Thorpe said, "and a number of their suggestions have been incorporated by Teacher's College."

He cited TAPP (Teaching Assistant Pilot Program), an experimental program which involves Teachers College students in the public schools, student teaching during their sophomore and junior years as well as during their senior year.

Miss Tisdale's complaint that Dean Walter K. Beggs does not meet with the board is unusual, Thorpe said. "I attend the meetings, but Beggs has not been invited by the board."

The suggestions made by the group of concerned Teachers College students "were nothing new," he said, "and nothing we had never heard before."

"There is a misconception that Dean Beggs and I can do anything we want as far as making changes is concerned," Thorpe commented. "This is not true. Any change made within the college must go through the department structure."

Thorpe said he would like to see the student surveys which Miss Tisdale said have shown Education 31 and 61 courses to be rated fair to poor. In the article, Miss Tisdale commented that change has not been made in the two courses despite the poor ratings.

"The student evaluations that I have seen have shown these courses to stack up pretty well to other University courses," Thorpe said.

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