

The 1986 NCA Team Report Concerns

- Although salaries were increased significantly in 1985-1986 there is still a serious salary problem at the full professor level and with the salaries of senior administrators. If excellence in research and creative activity is to be obtained, barriers must be broken which will enable NDSU to pay senior scientists as much as or more than administrators. The salaries of the department chairs, deans, the academic vice president, and the president are low.
- As the university expands its research capabilities in the areas other than agriculture, the team has serious concerns as to whether there is a sufficient current infrastructure to support this activity. The principal investigator and his or her students need space, basic instrumentation, technicians, secretarial support, and other administrative support mechanisms to obtain contracts and, even more importantly, to produce results and fulfill the objectives of these contracts.
- Funding support levels in student affairs and other academic support areas are low. If NDSU enrollment has a significant increase of part-time students, this situation could become very serious.
- There does not seem to be a plan for completion or implementation of the special area projects emphasized in the self-study.
- As the research and creativity areas expand, there is concern among many faculty that teaching will be slighted.
- There is significant concentration of foreign-born faculty in some units of the university. This has resulted in numerous complaints from students concerning the faculty's ability to communicate effectively.
- The administration should work with the appropriate state officials to improve the retirement benefits for NDSU employees not covered by TIAA/CREF.
- When the director of the cooperative extension service reports directly to the president there is a chance for no direct interface with the academic community.
- There is a large number of all but dissertation (ABD) faculty in business and some other areas of the university.
- It is the team's perception that few course offerings are available in the areas of business systems analysis or computer information systems.
- There is a serious concern as to the adequacy of the budget for the maintenance and replacement of equipment. As programs at the university expand, there will be expanded demands on these funds.