

REPORT TO PRESIDENT C. D. SPANGLER, JR.
ON THE MISSIONS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CAMPUSES

NOVEMBER 8, 1991

PART I

INTRODUCTION

Following World War II and prior to 1971, North Carolina's public institutions of higher education, like those in other states, experienced rapid growth and expansion. During that period, educational decisions were typically made in the legislature, and the General Assembly ultimately authorized each institution, except the North Carolina School of the Arts, to offer degrees up through the level of the doctorate. By 1971 it became evident that this was neither an effective nor feasible way to proceed, and previous legislation defining institutional missions was repealed and in its place there was created a Board of Governors. Under the provisions of the new legislation, The University of North Carolina was to constitute a single, multi-campus university composed of all sixteen public senior institutions.

The duties of the Board of Governors, and its method of selection, were subsequently spelled out in the General Statutes of North Carolina. For our purposes, it is particularly relevant that the statute mandates the Board of Governors to "govern the constituent institutions," to "maintain close liaison with the State Board of Education, the Department of Community Colleges and the private colleges and universities of the State," and to "prepare and from time to time revise a long-range plan for a coordinated system of higher-education. . ." In addition, the statutes set forth three major objectives to be attained in the development of the system. They are: (1) to improve the quality of higher education; (2) to extend its benefits; and (3) to achieve a more economical use of the State's resources.

In furtherance of its mission, the Board of Governors in 1976 submitted a Long Range Plan which, among other things, assigned roles to the sixteen public institutions according to generally accepted practices of institutional classification. For all practical purposes this was done by utilization of a somewhat modified Carnegie system.

With modest changes, this program structure has continued in effect since 1976. In the meantime, the State has experienced marked change and growth. For that reason, the President and the Board of Governors concluded in 1990 that a high priority should be given to the development of a new long-range plan covering the period 1990-2000. Each of the sixteen institutions was asked to develop a new plan for the 1990's, describing the changes in