

# Dentistry College Shift Discussed

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Lincoln — Plans to merge the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry with the N.U. Medical Center were criticized Saturday by two faculty groups and defended by the N.U. administration.

The proposed "administrative alignment," as it is called, would shift control of the college from the Lincoln campus to the Medical Center. The college and most of its programs would remain at Lincoln.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Roy Young said he will make the merger recommendation at the regents' March meeting.

Dr. Eugene S. Merchant, associate dental dean, told the regents' academic affairs subcommittee Saturday that the educational benefits to students are the central issue in the merger. Merchant headed a committee of faculty members and practitioners that supports the change.

## Accreditation Problems

He said students would have a better opportunity to work in hospital programs.

Dental Dean Richard Bradley said the college has accreditation problems because it doesn't have a better relationship with a hospital. Many N.U. dental graduates practice in rural areas and must be able to work in hospitals, Bradley said.

"We can't set up hospital programs when we're guests," he said.

Dr. F. Miles Skultety, associate dean for clinical affairs at the Medical Center, said it is easier to get something done "if you have an administrative relationship rather than go hat in hand."

Medical Center Chancellor Neal Vanselow said 55 of the 60 dental colleges in the U.S. are affiliated with medical centers.

Bradley said dental students already spend some time at University Hospital and Douglas County Hospital. He said the merger would not require them to spend more time in Omaha.

## Commuting Time

A. Birk Adams, an associate professor of oral biology and dental college representative on the faculty senate, said the merger will result in the "inevitable dominance" of the College of Dentistry by Medicine. He said the Dental College has developed a fine reputation, partly because of its independence.

This independence "should be exploited rather than thrown away," Adams said. He said that, even though the Dental

College will stay at Lincoln, some faculty and administrators would lose time commuting between Lincoln and Omaha.

When the College of Pharmacy merged with the Medical Center for administrative purposes, pharmacy teachers lost an average of 20 percent of their time commuting, Adams said.

## Senate Opposition

"At a time when Gov. Thone speaks of an austere budget and the university is worried about replacing \$2 million in cash funds, implementing an inefficient program expansion seems ill-advised," he said.

Adams also distributed a statement from the UNL faculty senate opposing the merger. In the statement, senate President

William B. Campbell urged the regents to send the merger issue back to UNL for "a much more careful study" which would be conducted by the academic planning committee.