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## **Committee on the Undergraduate Experience/ U.T. Alumni**

George C. Wright

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## **Committee on the Undergraduate Experience**

**U.T.Alumni**

**Barton Creek C Club**

**Saturday, July 13, 1991**

Universities all over the country are examining the quality of undergraduate education and have begun adopting new programs and developing initiatives to fully address the needs of their students.

Several institutions, public and private, have created teaching centers to assist new faculty and graduate students and, significantly, to enhance the teaching of tenured faculty as well. To bring attention to outstanding teachers of large survey courses, a number of schools have initiated awards, with the recipients being selected by committees of faculty, students, and often alumni. Several large universities have inaugurated what they believe to be a novel idea: the creation of a faculty fellow program whereby professors and students meet on an informal basis, often over meals, to discuss academic issues and campus concerns. But perhaps most significant, a number institutions, of varying sizes and mandates,

Very importantly: we have spent a great deal of time in interviews with virtually every segment of the campus. Also, we have read much of the current literature on Undergraduate Education.

The entire Committee will work this summer on reports, meet in the fall, and issue a report in November.

By way of a conclusion, I want to turn once again to the words of President Cunningham, this time in a speech to the Faculty Senate on February 5, 1990. He noted that our undergraduate program remains central to the overall goal of The University. "There is no question that we can succeed in enhancing undergraduate education at The University, and we can do so without damaging the other components of The University's mission. Indeed, the institution's graduate and research programs and its public service contribution to the State of Texas will also grow in stature and importance during the 1990s."