



Wednesday, January 8, 1969

The Chapel Hill Weekly

3

First \$23,000 Step Taken In Space Study Program

The first step in the establishment of a \$1.5 million multidisciplinary space sciences program at the University here has been made possible by a \$23,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

According to program director Dr. Robert G. Gaust, associate professor of Physiology in the School of Medicine, the project is actually a compilation of 16 individual projects proposed by various departments in the University. If accepted, the entire proposal will be funded by NASA over the next five years.

The program will basically cover three general areas of the space sciences: the origin of life in the universe, life support systems needed in space, and the social and economic implications of advanced space technology. In addition to the research projects, a public lecture series will be established at the Morehead Planetarium in conjunction with the planetarium staff.

The first grant will be used to set up a computerized study of communication barriers between scientists and administrators, directed by Dr. Walter A. Sedelow, associate professor of Sociology and Information Science at UNC. It also provides for starting the lecture series and handling the administrative and clerical aspects of the program, according to Dr. Faust.

Listing some of the benefits of the project to UNC, Dr. Faust said it would "play an important role in contributing information to the Government's space program. It will also," he said, "establish a center for space sciences research in this region as well as strengthen the research capabilities of various departments in the

University by introducing a multi-disciplinary approach to a common research project in space sciences."

Dr. Faust said the UNC program was one of 22 submitted to NASA. All but two of them were rejected, he said. The other program that was funded was at Case-Reserve University in Cleveland.

The Steering Committee for the project includes Dr. Faust; Dr. David E. Dunn, Department of Geology, assistant director; Dr. A.T. Miller, Department of Physiology; Dr. James R. White, Biochemistry; Dr. James C. Ingram, Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Herman A. Tyroler, Epidemiology; Dr. Walter A. Sedelow, Information Sciences; and Mr. A.F. Jenzano, director of the Morehead Planetarium.

Persons with projects in the area of the Social and Economic Implications of advanced technology are Dr. Walter A. Sedelow, chairman; Dr. Norman A. Coulter, Department of Surgery and Physiology; Dr. Robert Elston, School of Public Health; and Dr. Herman A. Tyroler.

Life Support Systems: Dr. A.T. Miller, chairman; Dr. Marcus B. Waller, Psychology; Dr. Lawrence Slifkin, Physics; Dr. David Dunn, Geology; and Dr. Howard T. Odum, Zoology.

And, the Origin of Life and the Universe; Dr. James R. White, chairman; Dr. Snag-Il Choi, Physics; Dr. Bryce DeWitt, Physics; Dr. Faust; Dr. Ralph Penniall, Biochemistry; Dr. Darrel Stanford, Zoology; and Dr. Richard Hiskey, Chemistry.