

In face of budget-cut plan

WPCC has a record signup

By **BOBBY HILL**
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Facing budget cuts from the General Assembly this summer, Western Piedmont Community College officials today announced their largest ever summer enrollment figures.

With one day of registration still left, 901 students will be going to the first summer term at WPCC. This is a significant increase over the 766 total last summer for both summer terms. The school will again hold registration July 16 for the second summer term.

WPCC officials point to the figures as additional ammunition against proposed 20 per cent cuts by the legislature from the community colleges' budgets. They say the institutions across the state have seen enrollment skyrocket since the recession began.

WPCC President Dr. Gordon C. Blank and Dean H. D. Moretz said today they are "very concerned" about the proposed budget cuts. Dr. Blank said, "The jury is still out," on the House Appropriations Committee considering the budget cutbacks.

The WPCC president said there is some difference of opinion in the state Capitol on the proposed cuts of community college budgets. However, Dr. Blank is optimistic about getting additional funds to deal with enrollment boosts. Furthermore, he said, "We feel reasonably certain that there won't be the massive 20 per cent cuts."

Dean Moretz predicted even further enrollment increases at the college. "I think it is inevitable that we will have a substantial increase this fall," he said.

Dr. Blank said the school has already cut back on the size of some programs. One example is a police science program from which interested students are being turned away and encouraged to take related subjects.

"I have a guarded optimism about things," Dr. Blank said of the budget deliberations. "However, things will be tight. We're going to have to retrench in some programs."

The college president said economies will be effected without diminishing the quality of education. However, he said, "We're already stretching every dollar as far as it will go."

Dr. Blank predicted that the skyrocketing enrollment at the community college will continue for at least two more years. He said the increase is "a direct reflection of the austere economy." The college enrollment will stabilize in the 1980s, Dr. Blank predicted.



Staff photo by **ANDY HERN**

WPCC registration brings long lines