

WPCC preparing to advertise for bids on new buildings

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Odell Associates anticipates advertising bids for two buildings at Western Piedmont Community College by mid-March, WPCC trustees learned at their Wednesday night meeting.

The board also accepted the resignation of college president Dr. Gordon C. Blank and recommended the appointment of Dean of the College H.D. Moretz as interim president, effective with Blank's date of resignation, sometime in late June or early July.

Dr. Blank has resigned to become president of Adirondack Community College in Glens Falls, N. Y.

A representative of Odell Associates, the architectural firm engaged by the college, reviewed plans for construction.

"It will be the most sophisticated and energy-efficient building on campus," Roy Johnson told the board. The additions, which are expected to cost \$550,000, will add 16,000 square feet of vocational training space. Construction is expected to be completed by summer quarter of 1979.

After accepting Dr. Blank's resignation with "reluctance," the board voted that Moretz be recommended to the State Board of Education as acting president. Moretz will take charge upon Blank's departure and will serve until a permanent president is appointed.

The trustees reviewed copies of proposed bylaws changes to be voted on at their next meeting.

Under the changes, the board chairman will be limited to two consecutive terms unless the board feels a change in chairmanship will seriously affect ongoing negotiations or activities.

Attorney Claude Sitton questioned the vagueness of the section's wording, saying that the board could use the clause to keep a chairman in office a third term under any circumstances.

Dr. E.W. Phifer Jr. said the wording was "a little bit ambiguous, but it was meant to be that way." Another trustee said the board could

permit a third term through a vote of the trustees at any time.

The trustees accepted the bylaws for review and agreed that Sitton could improve the wording of that section.

Dr. Edwin R. Chapman, dean of planning and development, told the board that community colleges were not affected by the UNC-HEW controversy over affirmative action. However, he added, WPCC must now have its own plan to Raleigh by May 22 rather than by September 1979.

He reviewed the necessary components of the plan.

Sitton asked if the affirmative action plan meant the eventual appointment of "five or six women to the board of trustees." Dr. Blank responded that the agencies responsible for appointments, which include the Burke County Public Schools Board of Education and the Burke County Board of Commissioners, would be "encouraged by the State Board of Education to have sensitivities to the need for appropriate appointments in relation to the demographic makeup of the area served by the college."

He added that the comment did not answer the question of whether "goals and timetables become quotas."

Board members expressed resentment at HEW's "intrusion in the local autonomy of the community college." Dr. Blank said, "The one thing that really irks us is that every time we submit a request for a new program, we must get sanctions from predominantly black senior institutions that we will not interfere with their programs."

The executive committee reported that it had voted to remove the late registration fee of \$5 starting spring quarter. Moretz said the fee had outlived its usefulness; that students were motivated to register early in order to get the schedule they wanted.

In other action, the committee had altered the vacation policy to simplify bookkeeping. In the past certain employees could earn 20 days of vacation

and hold up to 10 over into the next year for six months. Now these employees will be able to earn and hold 30 days of vacation.

The holiday policy was also changed. In the past if Jan. 1 or July 4 fell on Saturday or Sunday, Monday was observed as a holiday. Now if July 4 falls on Saturday or Sunday, either the Friday before or the Monday after can be observed as a holiday, depending on the requirements of the academic calendar.

In other action the board:

—Reviewed the budget adjustment request to the May session of the legislature from the community college system.

—Learned that action would be taken to repair leaks to the library roof and to the outside of the college center.

—Heard from Dr. Chapman about a community survey to be conducted in about two weeks to solicit citizen opinion about programs and services needed from the college.

—Learned that Mrs. Rosalynn Carter is not available to speak at graduation exercises and that Dr. Blank will speak.

—Heard that a ruling has been received from the attorney general's office supporting the school's decision not to permit student activity fee to be used to purchase beer for student consumption off-campus. A group of students had requested this use of fees and had been turned down.

—Heard from Business Manager Ken Clark that the school term is 58 percent completed and that 58 percent of state funds and 59 percent of local funds have been expended.