

Texas educator finalist for WPCC post

By SUSAN USHER
News Herald Staff Writer

Dr. Wilmon Droze, provost of the Texas Woman's University, is one of two men being considered for the presidency of Western Piedmont Community College.

Droze confirmed Thursday that he is being considered for the Western Piedmont position vacated during the summer by Dr. Gordon C. Blank.

"I am one of those, as far as I know, that is being considered," Droze said in a telephone interview. "I would really prefer you talk with Mr. Moore (W. Stanley Moore), chairman of the selection committee or another trustee about this. It is more appropriate that they give out this kind of information."

Droze described himself as familiar with dealing with both legislators and the media. He played a leading role in the university's recent bid for a medical school. The effort failed by one vote in the state senate, he said.

Moore would neither confirm nor deny that his committee is seriously considering Droze, but he had identified the finalists for the job as two men, one a native of an adjoining state, the other a resident of an adjoining state. Droze is a native of Tennessee.

Neither of the finalists will be invited for in-depth interviews, Moore told The News Herald earlier this week, until the salary question is figured out.

Information about Droze was used by the trustees as a sounding board when approaching county commissioners to discuss a possible increase in the local supplement paid to the WPCC president. The trustees are seeking an increase of as much as \$15,000 more than the \$5,000 now paid. Moore said the higher figure is needed to attract a qualified person for the job.

County Commissioner James Gordon said he was told the Texas educator was drawing a salary of \$42,000. A \$20,000 supplement combined with a state pay figure of \$26,532 would give the trustees an offer of \$46,532 with which to negotiate.

At the time of his resignation, Blank was earning between \$36,000 and \$37,000 after 10½ years in the job.

The main campus of Texas Woman's University is located at Denton, 30 minutes north of Dallas. Two other campuses are located in Dallas and a fourth is part of the Texas Medical Center at Houston. Created in 1901 by the Texas state legislature to afford women an opportunity for higher

★ Please turn to page 5A

WPCC

★ From page one

education, Texas Woman's University is the largest state woman's university in the country, with an enrollment of 9,000.

Men are allowed to enroll only in the school's health science programs, which Droze described as the school's strong point.

The school offers 35 doctoral programs including unusual programs like radiation biology and radiation chemistry.

Health sciences are also viewed as a strong program at Western Piedmont Community College, which offers degree programs in nursing, medical lab technology, dental assisting and medical office assisting.