

College seeks new building

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A new \$152,600 building and a new \$8,400 salary supplement for Western Piedmont Community College President Jim Richardson are requested in a proposed 1982-83 WPCC budget that now will go to county commissioners.

The Executive Committee of the college board of trustees, which approved the budget, met with the trustees' Finance Committee Thursday morning at the college. The meeting was not announced to the public beforehand, as required by the N.C. Open Meetings Law.

College officials released a copy of the budget to The News Herald today.

The budget asks for a new vocational building, which makes up most of a \$232,340 capital, or building and equipment, budget proposal. County commissioners allocated \$36,840 for capital expenditures last year.

The new building request accounts for most of the increase. It would be used to expand the college's current vocational facility, F Building. College officials say F Building is too crowded, partly due to five new vocational education programs this school year and new industrial training courses, plus the machinery and equipment needed for the courses. The college has 11 vocational programs.

Also, the college's proposed \$430,190 operating budget is a 6.3-percent increase over the current year's. County commissioners last year ap-

propriated \$404,401 for the running of the college.

Major increases in the operating budget, in addition to the president's salary supplement, are a \$16,000 increase for utilities, a \$3,800 increase for upkeep of grounds and \$1,200 for travel expenses for trustees.

Pay raises for college personnel are not included in the budget proposal. County commissioners asked county departments not to include raises in the budget, but commissioners have not ruled out giving them later in the budget process.

Trustees, however, asked commissioners to give "strong consideration to awarding a fair and equitable salary increase" to employees. The college pays 13½ positions in housekeeping and maintenance from local funds. The state pays the salaries of instructors.

The chairmen of the two trustee committees, Robert Carr of the Executive Committee and Don Smith of the Finance Committee, were out of town today and could be reached for comments on the budget.

County commissioners last year turned down a \$5,000 salary supplement request for the WPCC president. But Richardson later received a \$5,000 private donation through the college Foundation.

Commissioners cut all local salary supplements to the college's six senior administrators last year, a savings of \$31,365. No salary supplements were requested for the other senior admin-

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istrators this year.

Former WPCC president Wilmon R. Droze's \$17,000 local salary supplement divided commissioners in past years and was an issue in commissioner budget deliberations. Droze stepped down last June.

Richardson earns an annual salary of \$32,184 from the state, but trustees have said he is underpaid, explaining that local governments traditionally give additional benefits to their community college presidents.

The N.C. Department of Commu-

nity Colleges reported last fall that the average salary for a community college president is \$43,000, counting local benefits.

The private, unannounced meeting of the two major college committees Thursday was the third time in recent weeks WPCC committees have failed to notify the public of meetings in accordance with state law.

Richardson said the failure to publicly announce the meeting was an oversight that resulted from a clerical worker's misunderstanding of when public notice of a meeting is required.