

WPCC budget OK'd

Western Piedmont Community College's executive council gave approval Thursday night to programs for inmates at Western Correctional Center and for the college's 1980-81 state budget.

The budget, totalling \$2,783,795, was approved on a motion by college trustee Donald Ervin Smith.

The council retired into a closed session shortly after the meeting began to discuss personnel matters initiated by remarks made by Smith.

Smith, chairman of the finance committee, said he had questions about the high percentage of salary raises, which include an automatic 10 percent raise for state employees and other step increases, according to a salary schedule.

"I think they're high," he said. "In some cases, we're going as high as another 10 percent."

"When we were negotiating the contract with Dr. (Wilmon) Droze I asked if we could come down off that figure some."

At that point Droze, the college president, said if they were going to discuss his performance he'd like to go into executive session.

Following almost an hour in such session Smith made the motion that the budget be approved, with the stipulation he has "serious concerns about the magnitude of some raises. This does not relate to individual positions," he emphasised.

In other action, Droze reported on a program to teach courses to members of "immured" or incarcerated groups, with Western Correctional Center used as an example of where these programs would take place.

By legislative action, he explained that any course offered by a community college to residents of such facilities have to be approved by college trustees. Staff members have been studying the possibility of offering curriculum as well as continuing education courses to these groups of people, Droze said.

The board of trustees chairman, Sam Brinkley, said "I think it's a real good step forward (that) we offer these courses."

The council also approved three presidential appointees to a dental hygiene program advisory council. The appointments are made by the college president, with council ap-

proval a courtesy.

Dr. Ted Holcher of Lenoir, Dr. Craig Bridgeman of Boone and Judy Adams of Lenoir, all dentists or certified hygienists, received the appointment.

Enrollment for the second summer term is up, Droze told the council, with four-quarter figures reflecting a reversal of a downward trend.

"Trusting my instincts, I think it (enrollment) will be up in the fall, too," he said. The peak enrollment year at WPCC was 1974-75.

The college curriculum also was discussed.

"Most curriculum programs we offer are offered by virtually every other community college in the state," said Droze, who added students pick these colleges for three reasons: "location, location and location."

He said the late Dr. Edward Phifer, who had been chairman of the WPCC trustees, had asked him to build up WPCC's curriculum and make it one of the finest institutions of its kind.

"I think we're well on the way," he said.