

WPCC trustees oppose bill

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Trustees of Western Piedmont Community College went on record against the "Boyles bill," sponsored by the state treasurer in the General Assembly.

The bill has already passed the N.C. Senate and will reach full vote in the House in the next session.

WPCC President Wilmon Droze said "It would cause difficulties... reduce the authority of college trustees in budget making."

The Boyles bill calls for county commissioners to give their approval to community college budgets.

Ken Clark, WPCC's business manager, said the association of community college's business managers unanimously voted in opposition to the bill recently.

"It's not that the bill is all bad," said Clark. "In my opinion there are things that would be good, but I don't see how they can be salvaged."

Clark said one good point was system-wide budgeting. Representatives from WPCC who will attend a statewide community college trustee's meeting May 18-19 will voice the board's displeasure.

The board also elected to pursue obtaining money from Odell & Associates, a Charlotte architectural firm that has designed almost all of the Morganton campus.

Board members believe the firm should pay for money spent by a plumber searching for utility lines" estimated at \$1,300. The lines should have been indicated by the architect, board members said.

"They have shown no concern about compromise," said Don Smith, a trustee. "What they have done is second-rate, and we shouldn't accept it."

"I don't think we should spend another penny with them until this thing's straightened out," said Smith.

Claude Sitton, another trustee, agreed their action was "irresponsible" and said if a firm is given that label contracts can be denied.

Droze and the trustees' chairman, Sam Brinkley, said they would go to Charlotte if necessary to talk with Odell executives.

The school's entire budget was also discussed, although Droze remarked the state budget is still in the planning stage.

WPCC is expected to come up at least \$100,000 less than last year and unofficial salary freezes are planned.

Droze said several vacant positions, including evening college director and Dean of Academic Affairs would remain open.

County commissioners have indicated the local appropriation will be up 6 percent from last year, said Droze, although the requested \$400,000 will not materialize.

Instead, \$345,490 is expected, and the college will take \$7,355 from reserve funds to form a \$355,845 operating budget.

Cuts will be made in supply and material budgets, travel expenditures and other areas to give maintenance employees a salary increase, Droze told the board.

Capital outlay funds from the county commissioners will supply fire protection alarms and replace one school car. Roof restoration is promised for the next fiscal year, said Droze, with vans the following year.

In other action, the Board approved donations, gifts and grants, established an emeritus rank for qualified retiring faculty, adopted a classified, scaled pay plan and approved two new academic disciplines. Harold Olsen, Dean of the Curriculum, reported on the new Associate of Fine Arts and a general education degree.

The new arts degree will allow the student to take more performing or active arts courses, and less math and physical education.

It will be available in addition to the associate degree in art usually selected by education majors.

The second degree is aimed at adults in the community, said Olsen, allowing them great latitude in course selection. It is not aimed at the college transfer.

The "general education" degree has minimal humanities requirements, and one year of English, leaving the student with 75 out of 96 hours of his choice.

A new constitution for the Faculty Senate, which serves as the faculty's representative voice, was also approved; with approval of a personnel committee delayed until nine board members are present.

Resolutions in appreciation of H.D. Moretz, who acted as WPCC president, and Carl Lusk, retiring president of the SGA, were passed at chairman Brinkley's suggestion.

An alma mater, with words by Roy McGalliard and music by Louise White, was also unanimously approved by the board.

It was first heard at President Droze's inaugural ceremonies. It was written in B flat key, with a descant, and by the writer's directions should be "slow and stately."