

December 18, 1984

WPCC Approves Hiring Of Architect For Library

By BRENT CHILDERS
Record Staff Writer

MORGANTON — Western Piedmont Community College voted Monday to proceed with hiring an architect for a new \$3,825,000 library facility.

The action followed the approval by trustees of a capital needs survey plan during a special called meeting. The plan lists the school's capital needs in order of priority for state funding.

The library facility is listed as the first priority and a new physical education building is second.

The General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 to WPCC this year for capital needs.

James A. Richardson, college president, said about \$79,560 was spent on the school's new \$316,560 vocational building, and part of the remaining \$420,440 will be used to pay the architect for drawing the library plans.

He said the project would proceed up to the bidding stage and then be put on hold until further funds become available.

The state Board of Community Col-

leges requested the needs survey plan on Nov. 15 to give the General Assembly an accurate reflection of the system's capital needs.

The plan must be submitted to the state board by Jan. 4.

Richardson said the General Assembly intends to appropriate \$50 million to the state community college system for the next two-year period.

A college will be required to equally match — through local funds — the amount appropriated by the state.

He said the plan will enable the state to rank the system's 58 community colleges in order of funding needs.

Richardson said the school might not receive funding since it is ranked 37 out of the system's 58 community colleges with respect to utilization of the facility's space.

The state board's construction formula committee has recommended that each school be ranked according to utilization data from the "Higher Education Facilities Inventory and Utilization" report.

The utilization factor is determined by how well a school uses its available

space.

Richardson said if a school was to have all its classrooms full for most of the day, it would be ranked high.

Richardson said the Association of Community College Presidents will ask the General Assembly to consider giving no more than \$2 million to any one school.

"If no more than \$2 million is allowed to any one school, then the colleges on down the ranking list may be funded," Richardson said.

Ken Clark, vice president of administration affairs, said the college ranks low because of a low utilization factor in its "other space" category.

The category is any space not used for instructional or library purposes.

Trustee Allen W. Fullwood said the school's ranking may have been higher if all the school's programs were instructed on campus.

The school has approximately 200 students enrolled in various classes which are taught off the campus.

Clark said the school may have to consider a future bond issue if local funding does not provide sufficient funds to match the state appropriations.