

First Library Plans Shown

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MORGANTON — The Western Piedmont Community College board of trustees Monday were presented the first preliminary plans for the college's new \$3,825,000 library facility.

Robert Salsbury, a Morganton architect who in March was hired to design the library facility, met with college trustees at their monthly meeting to present a preliminary design plan and drawing of the new library.

The board's building and grounds committee in January interviewed seven architectural firms for the job of drawing the designs.

"We have been working diligently for the past two weeks on the rough draft," Salsbury said. "This (library facility) project is a very big and exciting project for me and I want to thank this board for selecting me to design this facility."

Salsbury said he recently met with Hoyt Galvin, a library design consultant from Charlotte, who will help design the facility, and college officials to work through a preliminary rough draft of the new library facility's building program.

He said another meeting will be held next week to work a rough draft of the facility's classroom program.

He said he also will be contacting David Micheal, an architect from Washington, D.C., who will be in charge of designing the library's interior.

The preliminary rough draft depicts a 45,000 square foot two-story facility — 22,500 on each floor, he said.

The first floor will contain classrooms and a proposed teaching theater, while the second floor will contain the college library and audio-visual facilities.

Salsbury said the 180-by-125 feet quadrangular-shaped building will be placed in the center forefront of the campus' four other buildings. He said the facility will be housed under a sloped roof with both floors exposed — because of the sloped topography — at the front of the facility.

The sloped roof and exposed two-story building front will distinguish the facility as the focal point of the entire campus, he said.

The materials used to construct the facility will be similar to those used in the college's other buildings, which will tie in the facility's aesthetics with the college's other buildings, he said.

The design plans may be completed by June of 1986, he said. He said construction probably would take another 12-16 months.

However, the actual construction

start date will depend on how soon the college can obtain the funds needed for the actual construction.

The college's buildings and grounds committee has recommended the project proceed up to the bidding stage and then be put on hold until needed construction funds become available.

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

About \$79,560 was spent on the new \$316,000 vocational building, and \$149,500 of the approximately \$420,000 will be used to pay Salsbury for designing the library.

The state Board of Community Colleges requested the needs survey plan on Nov. 15 to give the General Assembly an accurate reflection of the system's capital needs.

College officials expect the General Assembly to appropriate a total of \$50 million to state community colleges over the next two-year period.

The needs survey plan — which WPCC submitted in January — will enable the state to rank the system's 58 community colleges in order of funding needs.

WPCC officials say the college may not receive funding, though, because it is ranked 37 out of the system's 58 colleges with respect to utilization of space.