

WPCC not reaping financial benefits of enrollment increase

By LETA PARKS
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Increased student enrollment at Western Piedmont Community College has earned the college more state money, but the school will not be able to get all of it due to a mandated reversion of state funds.

The school's trustees heard financial information about the college at a meeting Monday at the Phifer Learning Resources Center during which they approved the 1990-91 budget.

"We're growing, and the money we're earning as we grow we're not getting," said Ken Clark, vice president for administrative services.

According to the formula which determines how much community colleges get with the number of students they have, the school was due \$7,060,203, said Clark.

But due to a 3 percent reversion of funds mandated by the state which equals \$211,806, the college will only have \$6,848,397 for its net funded budget, Clark said.

"It's a bad situation financially,

but I hope we can make the best of it," said Claude Sitton, chairman of the trustees.

This leaves the school without a reserve for a later request, should the state require even more money, Clark said.

"We do not have a reserve should they (the state) come along later and ask for a further reversion to the state," he said.

Last year, when the state asked for a reversion the school had \$100,-

★ Please turn to page 7

WPCC not reaping financial benefits of enrollment rise

★ From page one

000, "And it's a good thing we had it," Clark said.

However, the school started new programs both last year and this year, which means additional costs, he said.

As a result of the 3 percent "negative reserve," the college was not able to budget for:

- A full-time developmental reading instructor.
- A full-time librarian (this position may be filled in January providing funds are available).
- A full-time horticulture instructor.
- An assistant evening administrator.
- A full-time civil engineering instructor for a new program.

- Two positions, computer programming and one nursing position, were hired on a nine-month contract. This is a departure from the school's policy to place full-time instructors on 12-month contracts.

"In addition to these items, we found it necessary to underfund supplies and materials budgets for instruction," Clark said.

Trustees also heard some good

financial news.

For 1989-90, the school received funding for 29 items, ranging from academic scholarships and instructional development grants to the various departments to new equipment and the new Phifer Learning Resources Center.

Money for these items came from the Western Piedmont Foundation, which helps get private funding for

the school.

Also during the meeting, trustees heard from New Zealand resident Jim Sharp, who is visiting Western Piedmont from the Manukau Polytechnic college in Otago, Auckland, New Zealand. Sharp is head of the department of mechanical and production engineering for the faculty of technology at Manukau Polytechnic.

A recipient of a Fulbright educational award, Sharp is visiting several United States cities, he said.

The visitor came to Western Piedmont because a company which sold computer software to Manukau Polytechnic "singled out Western

Piedmont Community College and Warren Bumgarner as really getting on top of the software package," Sharp said.

Bumgarner is a WPCC faculty member.

"I've come a long way out of my way to come to Western Piedmont Community College because of the reputation for what Warren Bumgarner was doing," said the visitor.

In other business the trustees approved two new personnel.

They approved Monty R. Layman as an instructor in physics and physical science, and Jane B. Carswell as a coordinator/instructor in industrial management.