

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

WPCC Is Candidate For Accreditation

Western Piedmont Community College is now two steps along the road to accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

At the annual meeting in Dallas, Tex. the Southern Association unanimously approved the recommendation by the Commission on Colleges that Western Piedmont Community College be recognized as a candidate for accreditation.

"When the college was first started it applied for correspondence status — the first of three

stages in achieving accreditation. This is the middle stage," said President Dr. Gordon Blank of the recognition of the college as a candidate for accreditation.

"We're going as fast as we can under their established procedures," commented Dr. Garmon B. Smith, dean of instruction, who attended the Dallas meeting.

"We're not eligible to be considered for full accreditation until after we have graduated our

WPCC

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first two-year class," said Dr. Blank. "After accreditation is granted then it becomes retroactive to cover all of our graduates. This is another milestone in continuation of the successful development of the college," he said.

Western Piedmont, being favorably accepted as a candidate for accreditation, resulted from the favorable report by the association's study team which spent three days at the college in April. Final approval could only be given to the report by the association's action at the annual meeting.

"The status of candidate for accreditation now places the college in the position of being eligible to apply for full membership in the association after it has graduated its first two-year class," said Dr. Smith.

Dr. Blank noted that the process of accreditation is an interesting one.

Prior to the visit of the team in April the college submitted a report upon which members based their investigation. They interviewed faculty, staff, students, and examined programs and facilities.

One of the three team members was a former CIA man who had worked in Europe. The man, now vice-president of a Florida junior college, "didn't miss a thing," commented Dr. Blank.

Standards used in assessing the quality of institutions are objectives, organization of the administration, educational programs, financial resources, faculty, library, student personnel, and physical facilities.

College friends, administrative officials, faculty, and students are pleased with the change in accreditation status. The standards of the Southern Association are rigorous and this is no guarantee for full accreditation.

"It does mean that in their eyes we are making satisfactory progress appropriate to our stage of development," said Dr. Blank.

Dr. Smith smiled: "This is an accomplishment of which to be proud, as it indicates the rapid progress being made by the college in becoming a fully accredited institution."



RECOGNIZED — Western Piedmont Community College was recognized as a candidate for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools during the annual meeting in Dallas, Tex. This is the second of three steps involved in gaining full accreditation. Discussing the college's rapid progress are Dr. Garmon Smith, dean of instruction, who attended the meeting, and Dr. Gordon Blank, president of WPCC. (Staff photo by Benny Orders)