

Since 1960  
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Wesleyan community"

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# Students Demand Answers from Newbould

By: Ron Fitzwater

Shortly after the announcement by Peter Phaiah, in an emergency SGA meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2004, that access to student activities fees had been frozen, student leaders from across campus began making plans to get answers as to why the administration had decided that the action had to be taken.

Mr. Phaiah had been asked during that meeting if the President would speak with them? His answer was that the students would have to ask the President themselves.

Several groups made that attempt.

Student Government Association President Keyanna Peoples and Vice-President John Tejada had Mr. Phaiah, who is their advisor, call the Presidents office to request a meeting. Their request however, was turned down, as President Ian Newbould stated, because what had been explained to him was that the SGA wanted to "hear it from me, not from him". Peoples explained that they were sitting in Phaiah's office when, at their request, the meeting was asked for.

The President stated that he didn't accept the meeting request because he "didn't need SGA to go over his head to make him (Phaiah) look like a puppet, because that undermines him".

The President told Peoples and



Students display signs to drivers on Hwy 301

Tejada that if the students would have come to him directly and asked him to talk "then absolutely, Why not. Will you get everything you want will you win the argument? Maybe, I don't know. I win some, I loose some, you might win some,

*"We've come to the end of the year, we're balancing the budget, and we're shutting down spending in every area except that which is absolutely necessary."*

- President Ian Newbould

you might loose some but that's not the point. Really the important point is let's discuss it."

The President further clarified that



Students line the side of Hwy 301 at NCWC front entrance

his point in turning down the request to talk was not because he did not want to speak with the students, but that he did not wish to offend Phaiah. He added, however, "If all you wanted to hear from me, was what he was saying, then no."

Another attempt to have the President speak with the students was put into place by Black Student Association (BSA) President Brandon Edge and former BSA President Pamela Bryant, both members of the hastily and unofficially formed Student Action Committee (SAC). That attempt was to circulate a petition requesting the that President appear before all interested students in an open forum. Ms. Bryant collected 156 signatures and attempted to deliver it to the Presidents office for his consideration where she met with some resistance from Presidential Administrative Assistant Jetta Baker. Ms. Bryant related the exchange with Ms. Baker as follows;

"The first time I took the petition she (Baker) told me that I would have to make an appointment to see him (Newbould). She told me that if he refuses to see me, or he refused to honor the petition that she would be the one to tell me about it. I asked her how soon we could get an appointment and she said 'If you will come back tomorrow, I

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