

OPINION

Issue In-Focus: What Changes Would You Make at NC Wesleyan?

Decree staffers were asked to respond to the following: What changes would you make at Wesleyan in the following areas: campus and facilities, rules and regulations, course offerings and majors, student body, and "other." Here are their responses:

CAMPUS & FACILITIES

Jarad Brown

The campus has a beautiful exterior with blooming trees, plush grass, and even a flowing fountain. Unfortunately its outside appeal does not carry through inside the campuses walls. While some facilities are great, such as the Dunn Center or the Hartness Center, other buildings seem to be in shambles. The is especially true with the dorms, which have writing on the walls, plumbing that is mediocre at best, rooms that look like jail cells, and an overall rundown appearance.

Building new dorms would be out of the question, but improvements to the current dorms are more than viable. A start would be to make sure showers and sinks drain properly and toilets flush properly. Also doing something to erase the graffiti in stalls and on walls would help tremendously. Inside the rooms, the college could add a fresh coat of paint, possibly a new color, as well as new, or at least improved furniture—anything to change where students "have to live" into a place they actually don't mind being.

Joyce Collins

I would definitely move the grill back to the Hartness Center. Almost every student who was here when they had the grill in the Hartness Center would agree that it was much better than the way it is now. Before the grill was moved, there was better quality of food and more choices, and you could actually purchase groceries for your dorm room. In addition, since the Carlton House was sold, that money should go to building another dorm similar to it, that's off campus as well. Perhaps the college could build suites or something that is modern but different than the other residence halls.

Kyairé Daniels

There is nothing about the physical makeup of the campus that I would change. The classic brick buildings, mixed with the modern elements of the newer buildings (Gateway Technology, The Dunn Center, Bodie and Centura Halls), and the wooded backdrop, give the campus an "authentic" college feeling. I would like it if more businesses were located within walking distance of campus. With us being located on the outskirts of town, we don't get to enjoy all that the city has to offer and many local businesses could benefit from our patronage. It would make the campus a more open and lively place and not so closed off by the brick barricade that separates us from the rest of the community.

Jenna Davis

The biggest part of Wesleyan that I think needs to be changed is the activities for students. There just aren't a whole lot of unplanned activities for students, activities that students can find to do on campus at any time. The Hartness Center is nice, but they definitely shouldn't have moved the grill to the cafeteria. The grill was a lot nicer when it was in the Hartness Center. Also, the Hartness Center is too small to house a lot of students, so when a few students go over there to play pool, a lot of other students have nothing else to do.

Meghan Herd

I think that we have a very beautiful campus but that some of our buildings and especially our dorm rooms are not up to par. We have many facilities on campus that are kept clean but that have many maintenance problems. It's not uncommon to find windows that don't open, malfunctioning toilets, leaks from ceilings, and broken desks. I believe that if the price of tuition is going to keep going up, then we need to make changes to the little things in order to keep our school appealing to applicants.

Jade Johnson

As far as the campus and facilities, I would make upgrades to the dorms and classroom buildings. I think that NCWC provides a visually great campus but it could be improved upon. Making more spacious accommodations in the dorms would be a change that I would like to take place as well as adding more technology to each of the classrooms. I think that all of the classrooms should be outfitted with wider desks so that it would provide a more comfortable workspace for all students.

Chris Ochoa

I would change the Hartness Center so that students could have a better place to spend their time on campus. The Hartness Center should be larger and have more recreational activities available. The student center is practically the only place on campus where students can spend their leisure time and still most of them do not. They do not utilize the center because there are not any benefits of using it that stand out. NCWC should consider moving the grill back to the Hartness Center and provide more areas where students can participate in a variety of activities. These activities can include more video game consoles, arcades, private study rooms, foosball, table hockey, and other activities that one would find at a student center at other colleges.

James Randolph

The biggest issue with Wesleyan is just that—Wesleyan has refused to become big. For some reason, expansion has been treated as a sin by many members of the Wesleyan community. Instead of searching for the means to engage in new endeavors, whether they are establishing new buildings, improving old ones, or even simply adding uses for the present facilities, it seems that Wesleyan has become complacent, even indifferent, when it comes to the use of our facilities. Last year, there was a Step-show hosted by a group of other school organizations...and that was probably the biggest event at our own DUNN CENTER!!! I can't be the only one who sees a problem with that. We don't use our own facilities to our advantage and that is a major problem.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Jarad Brown

The rules in place here are actually very tolerable and nothing really jumps out at me that needs to be changed for the betterment of the student body. The no-hat in buildings rule is disconcerting, but that is more of a non-issue than anything. However there are areas that need major revision. The requirements for acceptance need to be raised and the college should really put more emphasis on looking at a student and figuring what kind of student they are going to be in college. Obviously

the college can't predict how every student will turn out. But a bad high school student isn't going to magically become a good college student. The college has been "broke" since I arrived and I realize that this necessitates getting more students for more tuition; however, time spent on finding students who will be here four or five years and get a degree are financially better for the college than someone who fails out or is on the verge of failing out after one or two semesters.

Joyce Collins

One rule that I absolutely disagree with is the policy of being approved to move off of campus. This rule is pointless to me. If a student decides that he/she no longer wants to live in a residence hall, then by all means they should be free to go. I feel as if this is another way for Wesleyan to continue to get money from students, because if you are not approved to move off campus, then you will continue to be charged room and board.

Kyairé Daniels

I think that Wesleyan should raise their enrollment standards and include an interview in the admissions process. It should start recruiting for sports other than football and consider recruiting for academic programs. I think that if we built a strong academic program, then we would get more attention and more students would be interested in attending Wesleyan.

Jenna Davis

I think that the rules and requirements are fine.

Meghan Herd

I believe that for the most part Wesleyan does not have too many rules for the student body to follow and the ones that are being given should be easy for adults to follow. However, I do feel that the no-hat policy is a little too strict for college students and could use some modifying. Not allowing students to wear hats in most of the buildings and the classrooms is understandable but not allowing students to wear hats in the cafeteria is not. We allow students to wear hats practically everywhere—at games and Dunn Center events, in the library, and in the Taylor center but not when we are eating in the cafeteria with friends. It makes no sense.

Jade Johnson

I think that the rules at NCWC are somewhat fair and are put in place to benefit the student population. One that I would change would be the attendance policy. I don't think that as college students we should be allotted a certain number of classes that we can miss. I feel at this point in our lives it would be our own responsibility to make it to class each day.

Chris Ochoa

The rule that says one cannot move off campus until he or she has completed 51 credit hours should be changed. Wesleyan should allow students to move off campus after the first year. Since there is almost nothing to do on campus, then students should not be forced to stay on campus for half of their undergraduate career. The least Wesleyan can do is allow students to live off campus before their junior year.

James Randolph

The rules and requirements I think are part of tradition at Wesleyan. I don't see any that really cause students or faculty trouble in their day-to-day routine. Although there are things I would change like the pestering rules like the hat-policy or the awkward library hours, I don't see any serious issues.

COURSE OFFERINGS & MAJORS

Jarad Brown

The College does do a good job as far as what majors are available and what courses are available. I would like to see some classes offered a little more often, such as creative writing or some of the journalism classes. Some courses are offered once every two years and that makes it a little hard for someone who decides on a major late to still graduate on time. I would also like to see journalism offered as a major, though I'm not sure how much interest there is among students to major in journalism.

Joyce Collins

I would like for Wesleyan to offer foreign languages, such as Spanish and French. I am interested in learning to speak Spanish fluently; therefore, I have to go to another school or participate in some kind of program that offers Spanish coursework. Wesleyan can mislead students into thinking that a foreign language is offered—Hispanic Studies is listed in the catalog—but the truth is that there are no courses offered.

Kyairé Daniels

I think that we could offer a bigger variety of majors and academic programs. We should have majors for marketing, journalism, foreign language, communication, and art. I would also hire more professors for the majors that we already offer to increase the variety of courses. I think that a bigger staff of professors would allow classes to be offered on a regular basis and students would be able to consider a variety of career possibilities without the fear of missing a once-every-million-year class.

Jenna Davis

I would like to see more majors at Wesleyan like athletic training or even photography. Majors such as these would bring a new variety to Wesleyan and attract a lot more students.

Meghan Herd

Wesleyan offers many great majors but it would be nice to see more. Majors such as communications and foreign languages would be a positive addition to Wesleyan. I think that offering more majors would make Wesleyan more attractive and

could draw more students.

Jade Johnson

The majors at the college should be expanded, in my opinion. We should try to include majors that larger colleges and universities are offering. That would help to bring students to the college. I think that a lot of students would benefit from a larger music program as well as a communications major.

Chris Ochoa

Wesleyan should offer a pre-law program and other graduate degree-seeking tracks for students. Many students plan to continue on to graduate school and I do not think Wesleyan promotes that type of mindset. I am a justice studies major and I want to go to law school, but I had to pay a large amount of money to a professional tutor to help me prepare for the Law School Admission Test and also learn about the application process to law school. Wesleyan should offer courses and even majors that help prepare students for graduate degree programs.

James Randolph

Expansion, expansion, expansion!!! I can't say enough about how much more diverse, how much more academically and socially developed Wesleyan would be if the faculty and students were willing to give way to expansion. Most students remember the messy UNC-Rocky Mount ordeal... Well, maybe that wasn't such a bad idea. If we could get more degree programs...i.e. a journalism or communications major to improve the very paper we are writing now, a foreign language program, physics, or biochemistry, if we could offer any one of these programs it would likely increase admissions and a larger student body makes for a larger population of people capable of assisting the entire campus in its development.

STUDENT BODY

Jarad Brown

The student body is the thing on campus that could undergo the most renovation. An effort to bring in more well-rounded students would help, but most of the change needs to be student initiated. We need students who are more involved in bringing activities to the campus or participating in them once they are available. A stronger student voice is also needed.

Joyce Collins

Within Wesleyan's student body, I would like to see more campus participation. It's hard to argue that we need more activities on campus when there is not consistent attendance.

Kyairé Daniels

I would like to see a more diverse student body at Wesleyan. Although we do have a variety of cultural backgrounds it's safe to say that we are still limited. It's easy to pinpoint a student to a particular major and/or sport. Which can be called stereotyping, but it's the truth. Students from African, Latin, or Caribbean backgrounds can be attributed to soccer, while a majority of African American male students either play basketball or football. As for the female population, well, it's hard to say because there are so few here in the first place.

Jenna Davis

I believe we have a great student body. It's diverse and there is a great blend of interesting people.

Meghan Herd

NCWC has had in the past a pretty diverse group of students, which I think adds culture to our campus. I think that it is important to continue recruiting students from all backgrounds. And keeping up with programs such as our Finland exchange is very important.

Jade Johnson

I think that the student body here is a diverse one and it is becoming more so as the years go by. The exchange program with Finland has brought in a couple of students from a more diverse background than what we are used to seeing here at Wesleyan. I think that more programs such as that will help to increase the diversity at the college. It would also help the students to learn about different cultures.

Chris Ochoa

If I could help change something about the student body at Wesleyan, then I would want to make all the students more active in organizations. Students should be more active in campus life and want to make changes that will help other students. I would want the students to pull their numbers and use their power to help change rules and regulations. Overall, I would want the students at Wesleyan to be more ambitious and passionate about their education and opportunity.

James Randolph

Expansion...that pretty much covers it. The more students we get, the more money we get—the more money we get, the easier it is to expand. The male-female ratio is also terrible here. As I stated in a previous response, when half of the entire on-campus population consists of football players, the rest of the campus gets a little boring while they practice...that could be an incentive for some of the extra-legal and less-than-condoned activity constantly occurring around campus. Without growth, it will and can only get worse.

OTHER IDEAS

Nastasia Burnette

Things haven't ever changed for the better here and I don't believe that anything is going to change here at Wesleyan. Me saying what should be changed about our school would be a waste of time because I can't do anything about it. I will just say that everything—the buildings, classes, rules, staff, student body, and campus—is the way that the President wants it to be. However, if all of my credits could transfer allowing me to be considered a junior at a better school closer to home, then I would just change schools.

Joyce Collins

Gabe Raynor should be rehired as a staff member. When Raynor was working here, the quantity and quality of campus activities were better.

Jenna Davis

I have been impressed with the new intramural program. I think it has incorporated a lot of new activities into the Wesleyan campus and has gained the interest of the student body. It finally gave us something else to do on campus since Rocky Mount doesn't really have a lot to offer students. All in all, I don't believe there is much I would change about Wesleyan. I've enjoyed my four years here and wouldn't change a thing.

Chris Ochoa

The graduation application fee should be included in tuition. Over the four-year period that it takes to graduate, students pay an outrageously high amount for tuition every year. After four years of paying, a student, like me, would have contributed about \$60,000 towards Wesleyan for tuition. I definitely feel like I did not receive a \$60,000 education and experience. The least Wesleyan can offer is to include the graduation application fee in the tuition. It feels like the school is just trying to drain even more money out of my pockets.

THE DECREE

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