

Is Western getting more than its fair share?

WCU students benefit from UNCA

By Leigh Kelley

"We believe we are providing more services to Western Carolina University students here on campus than we are getting compensation for," says Dr. Eric Iovacchini, UNCA Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

There is an agreement between WCU and UNCA that WCU students pay WCU fees to take Western's courses on the UNCA campus. Western reimburses UNCA at a much lower rate than the students pay to WCU. Iovacchini estimates that UNCA loses about half a million dollars in revenue.

The state appropriates funds to

WCU according to the number of full time students WCU has at UNCA, says Laurence Dorr, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "State money that should be supporting (WCU) students here is going to Western and just sitting there," he says.

Harry Ramsey, WCU chancellor assistant for WCU programs at UNCA, disagrees. "We feel that what we pay to UNCA should be based on the additional cost that Western students would bring UNCA. In my opinion, Western is paying UNCA an appropriate amount of compensation in relation to the supporting services we use at UNCA," he says.

Ramsey cited several factors that determine the amount WCU pays. The economy, a decline in financial aid, and a decline in enrollment all have an effect, he says.

"Enrollment in Cullowhee is going down, sure. But that shouldn't be our problem," says William Pott, Vice Chancellor of Finance.

Pott says WCU paid \$145 for each of the 438 full time WCU students at UNCA last fall. WCU pays the total amount in two payments, about \$31,000 each semester. "In our opinion, it ought to be at least double that," according to Pott.

"We contend that the students live in Asheville, not in Cullowhee," Iovacchini says. "It's Western's

contention that they, (WCU students) can have the same benefits there as here."

Dorr agrees, saying "two thirds of Western's entire graduate students are here on this campus, using the facilities like everybody else. Dorr explained that because of WCU's extension program the state allocates only a limited amount of money to UNCA.

Ramsey says he does not know exactly how much money the state appropriates to WCU.

"It's their (WCU) students that are losing out here, it seems to me," says Dorr. "If you're going to have a resident program, you ought to support it."

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Computer science B.S. might not compute

By Leigh Kelley

UNCA students interested in earning a degree in computer science may have to wait a little longer.

Many believe that the delay in approval of the long-awaited major is because of a decree in the UNC system. A Consent Decree instituted into the UNC system in 1981 requires that half of all degree programs go to black universities and half go to white universities. Some think this decree would make it impossible for UNCA to get a degree program in computer science until a predominately black school first offered the same major.

According to Chancellor William Highsmith, UNCA does *not* have to wait for a black university to institute a computer science degree program before UNCA can offer such a degree.

"It's a matter of balance," Highsmith said. "The Board of Governors will look at all the requirements for a degree program, and we can implement the program as soon as it is approved."

The computer science department at UNCA is ready to go ahead with the degree program in computer science, according to department head, Dr. Wayne Lang.

"We have the money and we're buying the equipment, so we're just waiting for approval," he said.

Highsmith said if the board approves the program this year, the earliest a student could get a com-

puter science degree will be in the spring of 1984.

Several UNCA computer science students said they will have to transfer if a computer science degree is not offered soon.

Veronica Freeman, a junior computer student, said, "I'll just transfer if I have to. If they don't get it next year, I will take my credits somewhere else. But I hope they do," she added.

"Right now, I'm just hanging in limbo," said Greg Wright, also a junior computer science student. Wright said he hopes the degree will be here by the time he is ready for graduation. However, the question is, what will he do if it isn't?

"I'd probably go somewhere else or lay out and get a job until they did get it. Then I would come back for the degree. Those are your two best options," he said.

Min Wang, a sophomore computer science student, said she will also think about transferring if the program isn't instituted soon.

"If they do get a computer degree I'll probably stay, but if they don't I'll definitely transfer," she said.

A computer science degree program will attract more students to UNCA, but more importantly, says Highsmith, the degree will benefit students already here. He said, "We need to provide better programs and more relevant programs for the students we have."



The prospect of a computer science degree program is still questionable. Shown, is the main computer located in Rhodes Science building.

Staff photo by Carol Whitener