



The News Argus

Vol. XX No. 6

Winston-Salem State University

March 1983

Board Delays Action On Attendance Rule

By Sam Davis

The Board of Trustees has decided to consider other alternatives before adopting a mandatory class attendance policy for WSSU students.

Citing the inordinate number of WSSU students on academic probation, Dr. Arnold Lockett, vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs offered the Board a plan submitted by its ad-hoc committee on academic affairs.

"To help our students attain career goals, the faculty has voted favorably for a mandatory class attendance policy to be instituted," stated Lockett. He said the faculty decided to recommend the policy because of a definite correlation between absenteeism and academic failure.

According to the proposal, freshmen and sophomores would not be allowed any unexcused absences. Juniors would be allowed one excused absence per semester and seniors would be at the discretion of the instructor. Surpassing the amount of absences allowed by the administration would result in the student being automatically dropped from the course.

The Board sent the resolution back to the committee after discussion on the issue. The Board's action was prompted by a rousing speech by SGA President, Chris Wilson.

Wilson offered an alternative plan whereby students would be penalized gradewise for not attending class. He told the committee that the instructors should be responsible for making their students attend class.

"Certainly something should be done to prevent WSSU students from committing academic suicide," Wilson said, "I just don't think that mandatory attendance would be a good idea."

He recommended that instructors base 10 to 15 percent of students' grades on class attendance. Wilson further stated that instructors should give unannounced quizzes with zeros going to students not present. He said this would be more effective in curbing the absentee rate of students. To support his proposal, Wilson produced a survey conducted by the SGA showing that 75 percent of the students contacted voiced opposition to a mandatory class attendance policy.

Many of the trustees voiced discontent with Wilson's plan. However, Board member, Mrs. Aurelia Eller quickly came to Wilson's defense, stating that college students should have the freedom to decide whether or not they want to attend class.

"I had some boring instructors in my college years. Rather than going to some classes, I would stay out and read the book. In most cases I learned more than I could have by listening to a boring instructor."

Another Board member, Mr. George Hill, agreed with Mrs. Eller. "If you have a boring

instructor you may not want to go to class," he said, "I think we should give Chris' plan some consideration before bringing this issue up for vote."

Chancellor Covington suggested that the alternative plan be given to the Academic Affairs Committee. "We should definitely address the absentee issue. We should evaluate both plans and decide on the one that will be most effective in increasing the academic progress of our students."

Another item that Dr. Lockett brought before the Board was a resolution to revise the academic probation policy. The revision will be in line with those at other schools in the UNC system, said Lockett.

Currently, 297 WSSU students are on academic probation. The new policy would decrease the number to 200. The plan calls for a graduated scale of probation that stiffens with the number of hours a student completes. In a student's freshman year a very lenient probationary policy would be enforced. By the sophomore and junior years, the GPA requirements for a student being placed on probation would be more severe.

Other matters discussed in the meeting included:

- The opening of Kennedy Dining Hall (scheduled for April 1)
- The takeover of Camp Robert Vaughn (late this summer)
- Repair work being done on Bickett Hall
- Landscape improvement proposals
- The University's purchase of print shop machinery through a Mott Foundation grant
- The Enhancement Funds (total exceeded its goal)

See page 4

Inside:

On The Yard...Pg. 4

Editorials 5,6

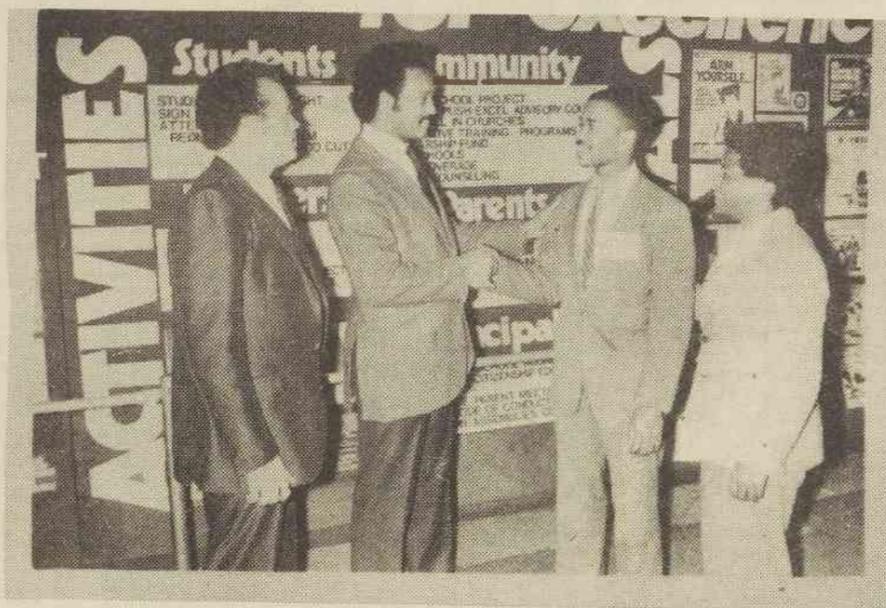
Sports 9,10

Tyrone Crider.... 2

Instructor Of The Month 7

Students Speak Out 3

Student Aid Cuts 6



Rev. Tyrone Crider (L), Rev. Jesse Jackson (second left), Chris Wilson, SGA President and Dr. Mary Berry at Operation PUSH headquarters in Chicago. Crider spoke to WSSU students recently. Story on page 2.

Upward Bound: Underachievers Find Success

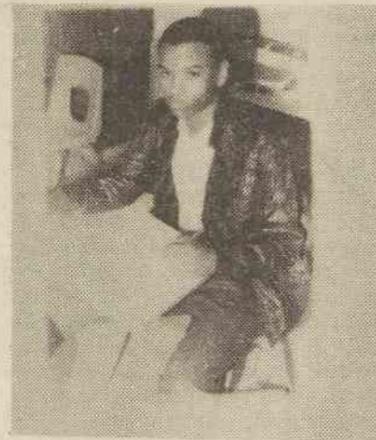
By Sam Davis

Self-help is the concept behind Project Upward Bound, a program which has enabled many high school students throughout America to become better prepared to face the future. The Winston-Salem Upward Bound program, located on this campus has motivated many local youth to succeed academically since its inception helped high school pupils realize their academic potential.

Upward Bound's main objective is to increase the academic progress of youth who have academic potential, but for various reasons have not produced results prior to entering the program. Another of the program's functions is to assist participants in acquiring the skills necessary to obtain admissions to post-secondary educational programs (college, vocational-technical). Thirdly, the program helps participants develop the necessary habits for college or career success.

Despite the success rate of Upward Bound students, "Reaganomics" might eliminate the WSSU program.

Mrs. Addie Hymes has been the Winston-Salem director since 1975. Her's is one of the most successful ones in the country. During her tenure, all of the students who have remained in the program through their high school senior year have graduated. The program's low (3 percent) attrition rate can be attributed to the challenges and individual attention and offered to the students.



Upward Bound student Jonathan Napper. Story on page 8.

Some 122 participants have graduated from high school during Mrs. Hymes' eight years with the program. Of this number, 20 have graduated from post-secondary institutions, 72 are currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions, five are in the U.S. Armed services and 21 are gainfully employed. Post-secondary follow-ups are done on all Upward Bound students to obtain this data. "We like to know if we have done a good job with our students and also know if our students are doing well for themselves," said Mrs. Hymes.

The WSSU Upward Bound program recruits students from all high schools (9-10 grades) in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System. Currently, there are 60 students enrolled in the program. According to national guidelines, two thirds of the enrollees must come from low-income families and be prospective first generation college students. The remaining third need only to meet the latter requirement.

Continued on page 4