

# The Decree

"The truth is out there..."

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North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, N.C.

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## 'We can move this college further'

By PATRICK BRANNAN

The following is an interview which was conducted with the next president of North Carolina Wesleyan, Dr. John White.

**The Decree:** Why did you choose Wesleyan?

**Dr. John White:** "It's a good place, a good opportunity, a good college. It's got a lot of potential. I think the college is a better place than it may think it is. I think what I'd like to do is to work with people so that it can really achieve what it can achieve. In this day and age there's a lot of

things affecting colleges and their well being.

"There's a spirit here at this college and a commitment especially on the part of faculty, that I think is really wonderful. I've been really impressed with the faculty members that I've met. There's a very fine administrative staff here and if we can get ourselves together and have a good conversation then I think we can move this college further."

**The Decree:** What do you see as the future of the college?

**Dr. White:** "First of all this will be a great place for students

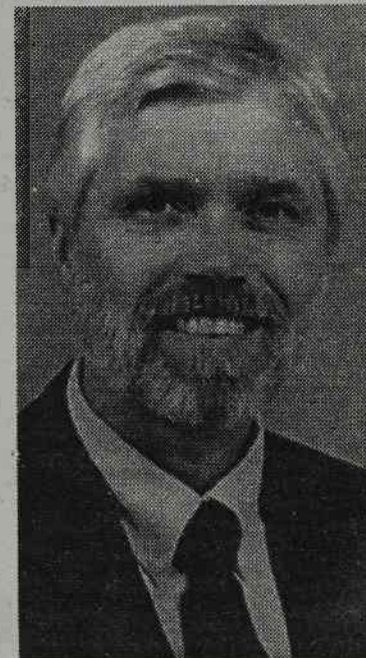
to come and learn. The thing that impresses me about the faculty is their commitment to teaching. What I'd like to see Wesleyan become is a place that gets renowned for taking students to the next level. It really takes a place where people are very committed and dedicated to teaching, and that's here.

"What I'd like to do as President, is to further the faculty's desire to be good teachers; focus a lot of energy on faculty development resources. So faculty can have support for re-tooling their courses, going to professional

meetings and being able to further their own professional goals. That seems to me to be a really important piece of strengthening the college.

"I would very much like to see the college strengthen its resources in International Education. It's very difficult today for students to operate in the world without some fundamental knowledge about how interconnected the world is. I would like to see the college develop and encourage students to think about the world in a more intense way.

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PRESIDENT-ELECT WHITE

### Decree survey results

#### Policies (Residence Life)

Longer Visitation ..... 62 percent  
More Noise Control ..... 17 percent

#### Alternatives to Meal Plan

Yes ..... 64 percent  
No ..... 12 percent

#### Suggestions for Alternatives

Number of meals in plan ..... 37 percent  
More variety ..... 23 percent

#### Events on Campus

Good ..... 70 percent  
Poor ..... 25 percent  
Great ..... 8 percent

#### Recreational Facilities

Good ..... 47 percent  
Poor ..... 44 percent

#### Scheduling of Classes

Good ..... 62 percent  
Poor ..... 27 percent  
Great ..... 8 percent

#### Graduate in 4 years

No ..... 56 percent  
Yes ..... 40 percent

#### Academics

Good ..... 74 percent  
Great ..... 14 percent  
Poor ..... 7 percent

## Graduation hard within four years

By PATRICK BRANNAN

(Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series. Part one ran Feb. 24.)

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Dr. Robert Bussom said, "Students here can graduate in four years and we do the best that we can to offer courses so that students can do that."

Dean Bussom was interviewed in response to issues identified by students in a survey conducted by *The Decree*. Planning within the institution and the academic area are major priorities and will help the school address many various areas.

Fifty-six percent of those students that responded thought that it was not possible to graduate in four years. Forty percent thought you could.

"There are a whole set of reasons students do not normally graduate in four years," Bussom said. The fact that North Carolina Wesleyan College is a small institution places an "increasing responsibility on the student and advisor to take the courses when

they are offered," Bussom said. "It is possible if the courses are selected correctly and you don't get out of step."

Assistant Academic Dean Cliff Sullivan agreed and said that the typical Wesleyan student averaged 13 to 14 hours a semester. Typically a student would need to take about 16 hours a semester to graduate in four years. National trends indicate that only about 25 percent of students graduate in four years, according to Sullivan. Sullivan cited the fact that more students are employed today as a reason why some may not graduate in four years.

Retention data for Wesleyan is the primary way to see how

students are progressing towards graduation. Wesleyan only has data dating back to the 1991-92 school year, according to Sullivan. The National Collegiate Athletic Association requires all Division II and III schools to submit retention data.

For the 1991-92 year 57 percent of the total student body at Wesleyan returned in the fall of '92. Fifty-two percent of males returned compared to 62 percent of females. "We have a very difficult time retaining male students," Sullivan said.

A comparison of some other institution finds Wesleyan ahead

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## Transportation service forms

Former North Carolina Wesleyan College security officer Sherrie Hawkins is opening a transportation service which will be available to students in the fall.

The Shuttle Express Transportation Service will be offering the students transportation to work; shopping centers; doctors; bus,

train, and airport terminals with the city of Raleigh and Greenville; and group trips to Greenville and Raleigh.

Rates and hours are to be announced later. More information will be available regarding scheduling and more when school opens in the fall.