



# The Cougar Cry

THE VOICE OF WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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## Financial

# WCC Faces Crunch

BY MARY R. SHEW

Wilkes Community College was the hardest hit of the 57 community colleges the State Board of Education allots funds to when it was asked to return \$220,000. The amount demanded was almost a third of the total \$737,000 the college was allotted on the basis of projected

enrollment. Although student enrollment was down only slightly, from 2541 to 2187, the State Board rejected Dr. David Daniel's plea to cut the reversion to half. Dr. Daniel explained to the review board that half the fiscal year was gone and we were already two months into the fall quarter when the demand came and that the money had been

spent for supplies and to hire additional part-time instructors for the evening classes.

The plea had no effect on the unyielding state review board members, forcing WCC to institute stringent economic measures in order to return the \$220,000. For the remaining six months of this fiscal year, no supplies or materials will be

purchased, all orders for equipment have canceled, and no school related travel expenses will be reimbursed. Dr. Daniel was also forced to cancel his planned trip to the annual meeting of the Southren Association of Colleges and Schools.

In 1976, 159 of the 450 curricula courses offered were

taught by part-time instructors, but by the 12th of December, only 29 courses were being taught by them. Part-time instructors have been reduced by 80% and will be reduced by 100% by the spring term. This forces the regular full-time instructors to bear the extra burden. It will raise their weekly class contact hours from 18 to 22-24.

## An Interview With The President

Note: Mary R. Shew, *Cougar Cry* reporter, conducted the following interview with Dr. David Daniel, President of Wilkes Community College, concerning the reversion of college funds to the State and the possible effects this action may have on the quality of education here at WCC.

**Cougar Cry: Why did the state institute this new policy when it apparently causes such disruption?**

Dr. Daniel: The legislature mandated reversion of state monies when institutions suffered a decline in enrollment, within certain limits. In our case, we lost a large number of veterans from our student population from the spring quarter of 1977 to the fall quarter, then we lost an additional number from the fall quarter to the winter quarter of this academic year, and because of those losses, the formula that was mandated by the state board of education, dictated that we should return \$223,000 to the state coffers for redistribution to institutions that had an appreciable increase in student enrollment, so it is a method by the legislature to redistribute money according to enrollment. The difficulty that it presents, however, is that it takes money out of the current year that you've already planned for and already hired personnel for, and bought supplies for, and all the rest of it. If there would be some way for these adjustments to be made the subsequent year, then the planning would be much better and it would avoid this kind of turmoil in the midst of a year.

**Cougar Cry: Why was WCC so much harder hit than other community colleges?**

Dr. Daniel: Many of our community colleges, a year ago, had a decline in veteran enrollment. We had our peak enrollment of veterans a year later than most other institutions. However, last year there was no mandated reversion, so these institutions were able to get through without having a mandate to revert funds. Our getting into the veteran business a year late meant that our big decline of veteran enrollment would be a year late, and it so happened that this year was the year of a mandated reversion, so we were hit. This institution, Gaston College and

Cleveland Technical Institute were among those hardest hit.

**Cougar Cry: Will the new plan of proposed distribution help enough colleges to a sufficient degree to offset the distress it has caused others?**

Dr. Daniel: I don't think so. The mandated reversion did not take effect until mid-year, and the redistribution of funds would necessarily, because of the paper work and red tape, take place later than that, so institutions that will be getting additional funds will be getting them so late in the year that they cannot wisely spend that money, so that's another reason for really trying to eliminate this current reversion policy.

**Cougar Cry: Is there any possible chance the state will rescind this new ruling since it has apparently affected so many schools adversely?**

Dr. Daniel: I think without question that there will be a modification in the recall provision. There are committees at work right now. As a matter of fact, Dr. Shaw, who's a member of the advisory board for the community college system has just returned from a meeting in Raleigh yesterday, where this was the topic of conversation and where the recommendation was made that the recall provision be erased from the legislation.

**Cougar Cry: Is there no where the college can get the money it needs to operate normally? No emergency grants? No loans?**

Dr. Daniel: 85% to 90% of our operating funds come from the state. Local monies are used for upkeep to pay utilities. There are no other sources of funds to take care of this kind of emergency. It's something that totally has to be absorbed within the institution. Some institutions that have healthy local budgets, and are not restricted to the payments of utilities and upkeep only, are able to expend some local money to take care of this kind of emergency, but that is not the case here at Wilkes.

**Cougar Cry: Will the part-time instructors be reinstated, and when?**

Dr. Daniel: Well, of course, we have operated a number of years with a large cadre of part-time personnel. During winter quarter of last year, for instance, we employed eighty-some part-time teachers to teach a hundred and

fifty-nine classes. Now, we have absorbed most of that with our full-time people. However, you must realize that we had an appreciable drop in enrollment so that the full-time faculty weren't overloaded to an inordinate degree, though they have accepted many more responsibilities, more students, and more classes, but this is absolutely necessary in order to meet our budget this year, but, at such time as the state money is available, then we will hire part-time people accordingly. If it isn't available, of course, we cannot.

**Cougar Cry: Will cutting out of part-time instructors limit course offerings?**

Dr. Daniel: We've been very fortunate, Tom Whittington, our dean of instruction, has done an excellent job in consolidation, and crossing divisional lines, even, to make sure that faculty have full loads. In a few cases, we eliminated a section or two, however, that course offering is still in the schedule and is available to the students, so that while there may not be quite as many choices, that particular subject is still available.

**Cougar Cry: Will the budget refund of the money affect the special interest courses, such as cake decorating, cabinet making, etc., offered by the continuing education division?**

Dr. Daniel: Continuing education was not part of this recall. The recall that hit us hard was the curriculum or credit courses only. Our extension budget is intact and has not been cut and will not be cut this year because the enrollment has kept pace.

**Cougar Cry: Will it be necessary to dismiss full-time instructors to live within our new budget?**

Dr. Daniel: This is a matter that is still under careful scrutiny. At this particular point in time, I do not think that we'll have to dismiss any of the full-time faculty.

**Cougar Cry: If this does occur, in which programs are such cuts likely to be made?**

Dr. Daniel: Well, this is unanswerable at this time. One of the things that we must do day to day is to evaluate our programs, the total numbers of students, the service that is being provided, the needs that are being met. Sometimes programs run their

course when the needs have been met, and student enrollment drops of dramatically. Sometimes certain programs have to be dropped, but at this particular stage of this academic year, we are not in a position to make a final evaluation at this time.

**Cougar Cry: Will the extra workload the instructors must bear have a detrimental effect on the quality of education at WCC?**

Dr. Daniel: Absolutely not. One of the things that we can be justly proud of is having an excellent faculty. Our faculty is well prepared. On paper, they have the credentials. Personally and professionally, they have all the attributes that make for successful teaching, and I'm just extremely proud of each and every one of our faculty. They have graciously accepted increased responsibilities. They are dedicated to what they're doing, and though they are spending additional hours in study and preparation and in class contact, there is no depreciation of the quality of instruction going on here.

**Cougar Cry: If the college sees it can operate without the part-time instructors, will it continue to use the full-time instructors for the extra classes?**

Dr. Daniel: Well, we will hire part-time personnel when we see that there is a need that cannot be met by our full time faculty, that's the rule of thumb. Our full time faculty, of course, should be working full time. There are cases where they're going the extra mile, and when the state money is available, we will hire part-time personnel to take that additional load from them.

**Cougar Cry: Will it raise their pay accordingly?**

Dr. Daniel: Well, interestingly, perhaps, the salaries, the faculty salaries at Wilkes Community College are on top in comparison with the other fifty-six institutions in the community college system. We rank number one in payment of faculty salaries, and we want to continue that record.

**Cougar Cry: Does this shortage affect the new buildings?**

Dr. Daniel: No, it does not affect the new buildings. We look forward to occupying the technical building in the spring and having commensurate improvements in our program because of additional space, and modern and functional space. But, at this

point, I see no way the decrease in the curriculum operational allocations will affect space.

**Cougar Cry: Will WCC be back to normal in every respect by the fall term of 1978, or even by the summer term?**

Dr. Daniel: Well, we can't second guess anybody. We don't know what the new budget will be, but, one thing is for sure, on July 1, we'll have a new budget, and I am very optimistic that the new budget will be a fair one. We'll have some revisions in it that will be easier for us to live with. I anticipate that we'll have moderate increases in our enrollment in the spring quarter and fall quarter of 1978, so an educated

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## Ministers To Be On Campus

WCC is beginning a unique program of cooperation with several ministers from the Wilkes Ministerial Association. Pete Mann, WCC English instructor, Tom Renniger, Frank McKenzie, Hugh Hoyle, and Dr. John Wayland are working at regularly scheduled times to talk with students.

The ministers simply want to make themselves available to talk with students on an informal basis in the Commons. They are willing to discuss any questions or concerns students may have on any subject.

The ministers have arranged a regular schedule for their time on campus. Their hours will be the same for all days listed: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The schedule for February and March is as follows.

**FEBRUARY**  
7 Tom Renniger  
10 Frank McKenzie  
14 Jim Barksdale  
17 Hugh Hoyle  
21 Frank McKenzie  
24 Tom Renniger  
28 Hugh Hoyle

**MARCH**  
3 Jim Barksdale  
7 Tom Renniger  
10 Frank McKenzie  
14 Jim Barksdale  
17 Hugh Hoyle  
21 Frank McKenzie  
24 Tom Renniger  
28 Hugh Hoyle  
31 Jim Barksdale