System president Bob Scott:

Colleges must remind legislators of the need

Feature Editor

Community colleges receive only 7.9 cents of every dollar spent on education in North Carolina. If they want to increase that share, they'll have to become more aggressive, the president of the statewide system told Brunswick Community College trustees last week.

Stopping at Supply for dinner on Thursday as part of his 58-college tour, Bob Scott said he was told by state legislators, "You're not being aggressive enough, proactive" in seeking funding. As a result, he said he realized "we'd have to try something if we're going to be success-

That "something" he has been urging trustees around the state, including Brunswick Community College trustees, is to make those who control the purse strings aware of community college needs and con-

Historically, the community college system has placed its needs on the table and officials hoped they got their share, Scott said. "But there's not enough money to go around, so we have to push and shove."

He shared with trustees several ways they can strive to get more money for community college programs that serve ten percent of the population.

He asked them to meet with their legislators before they head to Raleigh for the next session of the General Assembly and to keep in close contact with them in several ways, including:

Project 10,000. That's 10,000 letters to legislators from all 58 community colleges between January and the adoption of the 1993-94

Scott recommended each trustee write three letters (a total of 2,500 for all trustees across the state), and encourage students, business and



Bob Scott (left), president of the North Carolina Community College System, joined Brunswick Community College president Michael Reaves and his board of trustees for dinner last week as part of a statewide effort to rally legislative support for community college fund-

Scott said the idea is to be a 'constant presence, reminder' to legislators about community college financial needs:

'The idea is not to let them forget you.'

community leaders and other supporters to write letters.

We're going to try to spread this out so there are some letters coming in all the time," Scott said.

A day in the legislature. Scott said by coordinating visits to the state legislature through the community college trustees association, "We can have somebody up there

about all the time," he said.

Although it's "light years" until the state budget is adopted, Scott said the idea of the campaign is to be a "constant presence, a reminder" to legislators about community college financial needs. "The idea is not to let them forget you," he said.

The community college system will be seeking nearly \$60 million in expansion funds for 1993-94. That includes money to cover a 5.6percent enrollment growth, competitive salaries, program improvement, equipment, library books and materials, technology centers, child care grants, literacy education, human resource development programs, faculty upgrade, increase in instruction support personnel, student progress monitoring system and leadership development training program. The current community college system budget totals more than \$452 million, of which more than 70 percent is funded by the

Also before legislators is a \$311million bond issue for capital construction, which would provide for the top two building priorities on each campus.

The talk from the legislature is encouraging, but I've heard it before," Scott said, recommending trustees keep their funding requests simple.

He suggested they ask legislators, "'Don't you think the community colleges are worth a dime?' They can understand that," he said.

"I'm encouraged. I think we can

UNC-G graduate

Ivory Parker of Southport has completed requirements for a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has been invited to participate in the spring commencement ceremony at UNC-G.

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Contractor's

done the first three months of the project, and workers are "still trying to play catch-up."

Jamie Milliken said trustees knew when they hired Hatcher Construction the company had "a bad track record" and he claimed they were at the mercy of the low bid which required them to hire the firm.

"I'm not surprised. We'll be lucky to be in there by March the first,"

... 'We'll be lucky to be in there by March the first. We don't really have a bargaining chip."

Jamie Milliken Trustee

Milliken said. "We don't really have a bargaining chip.'

DeBlois said the contractor is looking for someone on whom to blame the delays, but pointed out this is the first time the college has had a problem on a construction project.

State construction is "birddogging" the project, DeBlois told trustees. "We do have an ally there that is very helpful."

DeBlois explained to trustees that even though there is a clause in the contract that says the contractor is liable for the delay in completion, the \$250-a-day assessment in liquidated damages is not automatic. The college must prove it sustained damage in some way if it is to collect the money.

Trustees agreed to spend about \$1,400 for three Lucite chandeliers for the lobby of the auditorium. Last month the architect on the project recommended crystal chandeliers ranging in price from \$1,500 to \$15,000 apiece.

In a related matter, trustees received copies of the revised master plan which includes a page projecting the cost of various building projects, figuring in inflation.

This enables us to plan ahead for sources of money," DeBlois said, noting that the master plan, which lists building needs up to the year 2000, is an "essential planning document."

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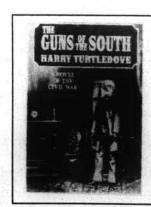
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