Student Staff

Why is Wofford not making greater use of a computer in aid to education?
Perhaps the need does not exist or is not recognized. Perhaps the present
time-sharing service cannot meet the need. Another reason may be that it un-
questionably requires considerable time and effort to prepare a new course
approach. It takes additional effort to learn how a computer might help and
still more to learn programming and to prepare the necessary programs. While
many of our students may not need to write programs, they probably can benefit
from experience with the behavior and analysis of systems more complex than
our classroom presentations usually treat. A computer simulation of such a
system, once completed, would serve many students in subsequent years. In
other words, there may be a need which cannot be met due to the press of other
duties.

Our computer terminal can become more than an improved desk calculator if
the Computer Center can offer more service than just a teletype and a place to
sit. A staff of students, employed by the Computer Center, would provide a
needed extension of service. These students, trained in computer use, would
serve as Computer Assistants to their own departments. Several students are
sufficiently interested and capable (could be more so with encouragement from
faculty friends) to write the necessary programs. A start in preparing this
group has been made in past Computer Concepts Interim projects in which many
students have developed programs chosen to be useful in current courses of
interest to them. If such a staff existed, its function would be to work
with interested faculty members on possible computer applications and to prepare
such applications as needed. This might require considerable knowledge of the
subject matter concerned, some knowledge of terminal operation, of programming
and perhaps specific numerical methods. The staff would also, of course, be
available for routine terminal operations required, for example, for data
analysis or report generation. A student-staffed Computer Center could provide
a real service to several parts of this college, including the Administration.

Could such service benefit your teaching????