

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 11, 2024

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the Griffin Center on campus. Present were Trustees Christina M. Ryan serving as chair in Chair Christine H. Keck's absence; W. Harold Calloway; Daniel M. Fuquay; Fouad L. Hamami '25; Jeffrey L. Knight; Ronald D. Romain '73; and Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76. Trustees John M. Dunn and Christine H. Keck were absent. Also in attendance were President Ronald S. Rochon; Interim Provost Shelly B. Blunt; Vice President for Finance and Administration Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95; Vice President for Marketing and Communication Kindra L. Strupp M'22; Vice President for Development David A. Bower; Vice President for Student Affairs Khalilah T. Doss; Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management Troy A. Miller; Faculty Senate Vice Chair Nicholas D. Rhew and Student Government Association President Adrianna E. Garcia '24.

Trustee Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

SECTION I – GENERAL AND ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2023, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Calloway, the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting on November 2, 2023, were approved.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Mrs. Ryan called on Vice President Strupp, who reported the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, on campus in the Griffin Center.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustee Ryan called on President Rochon for his report. President Rochon announced USI welcomed back faculty and staff at its Spring University meeting and professional development day on Wednesday, January 3, in the Screaming Eagles Arena. In addition to many campus updates, there were several significant announcements shared including:

- Dr. Zane Mitchell's official retirement from the University;
- Steve Bequette's retirement as Director of Public Safety, Sam Preston will serve as interim Director during the search process;
- Mary Hupfer, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration intends to retire effective January 1, 2025, after working on 34 University budgets;
- Jeff Sickman has been promoted to Assistant Vice President for Finance and Administration and Assistant Treasurer;
- Jina Platts has been promoted to Director of University Accounting;
- Aaron Trump has been promoted to Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel; and
- David A. Bower will retire after 30 years of service to USI, 18 years as President of the USI Foundation and 7 years as Vice President for Development.

USI was awarded a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. for its Advancing the Science of Reading initiative. Funds from this implementation grant will support USI's teacher preparation program as they incorporate the Science of Reading into the curriculum. To advance our community and beyond, it is imperative to provide our future educators with the knowledge and tools grounded in being effective reading instructors to all children. This grant will assist USI in providing the resources needed to do so.

Through an award from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's College Success Grant, USI will receive funding to hire two College Success Coaches. Coaches will assist in providing an immersive on-campus experience for first-generation college students, aimed at ensuring more first-generation students

matriculate to USI. In addition, they will ensure the proportion of participants supported exceeds the state average of high school graduates who enroll in college.

USI held Fan Appreciation Night for its first official home conference basketball games on Thursday, January 4, against Tennessee State. Fans were offered free hot dogs and foam fingers to cheer on our women's and men's teams. Dr. Rochon was excited to report not only one but TWO wins were acquired that evening. The women took the win early with a final score of 78-57 against the Tennessee State Tigers. The men made it a real nail-biter by fending off a pair of last-second shots and holding on to defeat the Tigers 69-67.

Each year to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., the University of Southern Indiana welcomes a special speaker for the annual USI Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. On Monday, January 15, 2024, at 11 a.m. in Carter Hall, USI will host retired Major General Barrye L. Price for a presentation. General Price currently serves as the President and CEO of the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America. Dr. Rochon directed the Trustees to a flyer in their Board packets with more information. Trustees were able to obtain tickets for this event from the President's Office.

The Philip H. Hagemann Performing Arts Department, The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, and the USI Foundation will present USI's first opera on campus titled "Ruth" in the USI Performance Center on January 26 and 27, 2024. This was a year-long collaboration with the Hagemann Department of Performing Arts, the College of Liberal Arts, the Pegasus Opera Company of London, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, the USI Foundation, along with dozens of students who will be performing on stage and behind the scenes as costume designers and fabricators, ushers, ticket sales, and more.

On Wednesday, January 31, USI will host an Early College High School visit. The EVSC Early College High School is a partnership between the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, Ivy Tech Community College, and the University of Southern Indiana. The program offers students a unique educational setting that allows students to complete an Associate's degree or 60 hours towards a Bachelor's degree while still enrolled in High School.

USI's Homecoming will be on Saturday, February 10. Homecoming week will begin February 3 with many events and activities for students, staff, and families to attend including:

- Screegle Day of Service – Feb. 3
- Eagle Egg Hunt with APB – Feb. 5-8
- Window Painting Contest – Feb. 6
- Office Decorating Contest and Archie's Next Top Model – Feb. 7
- Donation Creation by USIF Student Advisory Board and Craziest Fan Competition by Student Alumni Association – Feb. 8
- Parents and Family Weekend – Feb. 9-10
- Homecoming Tailgate and Pep Rally – Feb. 10

Teams from southern Indiana middle and high schools will once again gather on the USI campus for the annual Science Olympiad, scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2024. Participating schools will field teams of up to 15 students who will compete in 23 STEM events, covering almost all of the Indiana Science Standards. This year's events will challenge students to build an airplane, a tower, a rollercoaster, and a robot for demonstration and require students to apply their existing scientific knowledge to the tasks at hand.

President Rochon called on Dr. Nick Rhew who served on behalf of Dr. Kyle Mara for a report from Faculty Senate. Dr. Rhew announced faculty and students have returned to the classroom and the semester is off to a good start. Faculty continue to help support the mission and strategic plan of USI through research, service, and their dedication to the education of students. As always, faculty enjoyed celebrating with our students at USI's Fall Commencement exercises and look forward to doing so again this Spring. Senate has been working on a variety of charges regarding communication, benefits, and faculty handbook updates.

Senate will recruit faculty to help with the evaluation of the campus-wide Academic Program Review effort. This effort, led by the Faculty Senate assessment committee, will complete the review of the remaining program documents this summer to finalize our first academic program review 5-year cycle. He concluded by noting appreciation for the support that was provided by Interim Provost Blunt's office on this project.

President Rochon called on Adrianna Garcia for a report from the Student Government Association (SGA). In

December, SGA participated in the "Lighting a Tradition" event by hosting a gingerbread house contest and a religious inclusivity project. SGA provided decorations from several different religious traditions and cards explaining the different religions. SGA also hosted the end-of-the-year winter banquet for SGA members and advisors. SGA will be participating in the involvement fair the week of January 15-19, 2024, and have many more initiatives planned for this semester.

D. APPROVAL OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

Trustee Ryan called on Vice President Bridges to address the Conflict of Interest Statements on behalf of Aaron Trump. Mr. Bridges reminded the Trustees Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4 states that a public servant commits conflict of interest, a Level 6 felony, if the public servant knowingly or intentionally has pecuniary [financial] interest in, or derives a profit from, a contract or purchase connected with an action by the governmental entity served by the public servant.

It is not an offense under Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4 if the public servant makes a full and truthful disclosure, in writing, to the governmental entity of a conflict or potential conflict. A public servant may comply with the disclosure requirement by submitting for approval to the Board of Trustees a statement of pecuniary interest on an annual basis.

To ensure individual compliance with the disclosure requirement, the University requires statements from trustees and senior staff, including those with no potential conflicts of interest to disclose. A list of individuals who have submitted a *Possible Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement* for calendar year 2024 is in Exhibit I-A. The list of disclosed potential conflicts must be approved by the Board of Trustees and then forwarded to the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Mr. Bridges reminded the Trustees that those with conflicts will be noted in the minutes as abstaining from voting on their own individual disclosures but are voting on all other submitted statements.

On a motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Romain, Trustees reviewed and approved all conflict of interest statements except their own individual disclosures in Exhibit I-A. Trustees present abstaining from approval of their individual disclosures were Jeffrey Knight, Christina Ryan, and Kenneth Sendelweck.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. REPORT OF THE JOINT FINANCE/AUDIT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The Finance/Audit Committee and the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee will meet in Joint Session prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on January 11, 2024. Chair Ryan motioned to waive the report of the Joint Committee since the full Board was present for the meeting. Mr. Sendelweck seconded the motion, the request to waive the report was approved.

B. UPDATE ON CURRENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Trustee Ryan called on Vice President Bridges, who introduced Director of Facility Operations and Planning Jim Wolfe for a report on the status of current construction projects. He referred the Trustees to Exhibit II-A for a list of projects and a summary of the cost and funding sources for each project.

SECTION III - PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. REPORT ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR 2024-2025

Trustee Ryan called on Interim Provost Blunt to review the following leaves of absence.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>University Unit</u>
Dr. Jenna Kloosterman	Academic Year 2024-2025	Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education
Dr. Rocco Gennaro	Fall 2024	College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Stella Ress	Spring 2025	College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Eric Atlheide	Spring 2025	College of Liberal Arts

B. REPORT ON FACULTY, ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF RETIREMENTS

Trustee Ryan called on Vice President Bridges to review the following faculty, administrative and staff retirements.

Instructor in Mathematics Glenn C. Ballard, in accordance with the regular retirement policy, will retire effective May 7, 2024, after 17 years of service.

Director of Public Safety Stephen L. Bequette, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, retired effective January 6, 2024, after 15 years of service.

Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement David A. Bower, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2025, after 30.5 years of service, including leave with pay from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

Construction Manager, Facility Operations and Planning Gary L. Burgdorf, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2025, after 20 years of service, including leave with pay from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

Professor of Economics Peter S. Cashel Cordo, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2025, after 30 years of service, including leave with pay from August 13, 2024, to December 21, 2024.

Custodial Worker David L. Dockery, retired on November 27, 2023, after 10 years of service.

Professor of Engineering Zane W. Mitchell, in accordance with the regular retirement policy, retired effective January 3, 2024, after 14.5 years of service.

Systems Manager Robert A. Threet, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2025, after 24 years of service, including leave with pay from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

C. APPROVAL OF EMERITUS STATUS

Trustee Ryan called on Vice President Bridges, who recommended approval of the following emeritus titles. On a motion by Mr. Fuquay, seconded by Mr. Knight, the following titles were approved.

Instructor Emeritus in Mathematics Glenn C. Ballard

Director Emeritus of Public Safety Stephen L. Bequette

Vice President Emeritus for Development and Alumni Engagement and President Emeritus, USI Foundation
David A. Bower

Construction Manager Emeritus Gary L. Burgdorf

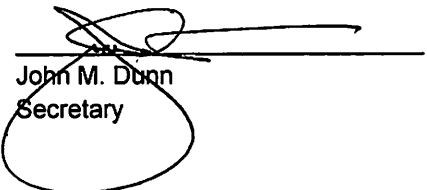
Professor Emeritus of Economics Peter S. Cashel Cordo

Dean Emeritus Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education, and Professor Emeritus of Engineering
Zane W. Mitchell

Systems Manager Emeritus Robert A. Threet

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Dunn
Secretary

**Possible Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements
Filed for 2024**

DATE	NAME/ TITLE	VENDOR/ CONTRACTOR	DESCRIPTION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
12/13/23	Laurie Berry Dean of Students	None	N/A
12/13/23	Carey Beury Senior Executive Assistant to the President	None	N/A
12/12/23	Shelly B. Blunt Interim Provost	None	N/A
12/13/23	David A. Bower Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement; President, USI Foundation	None	N/A
12/18/23	Steven J. Bridges Vice President for Finance and Administration	None	N/A
12/18/23	Andrew Buck Associate Professor of Sociology Chair of the Council of Chairs and Program Directors	None	N/A
12/12/23	Gloria J. Butz Laboratory Supervisor Staff Council Chair	None	N/A
	William Harold Calloway Trustee	None	N/A
12/14/23	Michael Dixon Dean of the School of Graduate Studies; Professor of History	None	N/A
12/18/23	Khalilah T. Doss Vice President for Student Affairs	None	N/A
12/14/23	Del Doughty Dean, College of Liberal Arts	None	N/A
12/21/23	John M. Dunn Trustee	Dunn Hospitality Group	Majority Stockholder
12/13/23	William Elliott, Jr. Interim Dean, Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education	None	N/A
12-12-23	Daniel M. Fuquay Trustee	None	N/A

DATE	NAME/ TITLE	VENDOR/ CONTRACTOR	DESCRIPTION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
12/18/23	Taylor Gogel Assistant Director of Development Administrative Senate Chair	None	N/A
12/14/23	Jon Mark Hall Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics	Hall Communications	Wife owns company
12/20/23	Fouad Hamami Student Trustee	None	N/A
12/12/23	Jason Hardgrave Interim Associate Provost	None	N/A
12/19/23	Mary A. Hupfer Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration; Foundation Fiscal Officer	None	N/A
12/20/23	Christine H. Keck Trustee	German American Bank	Regional Advisory Board and Shareholder
12/20/23	Jeffrey L. Knight Trustee	Old National Bank	Shareholder & Retired Employee
12/18/23	T. Kyle R. Mara Associate Professor of Biology; and Faculty Senate Chair	None	N/A
12/18/23	Julie McCullough Dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions	None	N/A
12/13/23	Troy A. Miller Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management	None	N/A
12/18/23	Sudesh N. Mujumdar Dean, Romain College of Business;	None	N/A
12/12/23	Nita Musich Executive Assistant to the President	None	N/A
12/13/23	Ronald S. Rochon President	Deaconess Hospital and Deaconess Health System Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-Rep) WNIN	Director Director Director
12-08-23	Ronald D. Romain Trustee	None	N/A
12-08-23	Christina M. Ryan Trustee	German American Bank Corp Deaconess Hospital Henderson	Director & Shareholder Director
12-16-23	Kenneth L. Sendelweck Trustee	Merrill Lynch/Bank of America	Employee

DATE	NAME/ TITLE	VENDOR/ CONTRACTOR	DESCRIPTION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
12/18/23	Austin K. Siders Chief Information Officer	None	N/A
12/18/23	Rashad Smith Executive Director of Enrollment	None	N/A
12/14/23	Jeffrey M. Spohn Director of Procurement	None	N/A
12/12/23	Dawn M. Stoneking Executive Director of Outreach and Engagement	None	N/A
12/12/23	Kindra L. Strupp Vice President for Marketing and Communication	None	N/A
12/13/23	Aaron C. Trump Chief Government and Legal Affairs Officer	None	N/A
12/13/23	Sarah Will Executive Director of Human Resources	None	N/A
12/13/23	Emilija Zlatkovska Director of International Programs and Services; Affiliate Assistant Professor of English, Director of Intensive English Program	None	N/A

**Summary
Construction Projects**

January 11, 2024

Recently Completed

HVAC Various Equipment and Energy Improvements

Project Cost \$ 723,000

Funding Sources:

Energy Management Controls Reserve	\$	300,000
Special Projects	\$	253,000
FY22 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	170,000

Projects Under Construction

Health Professions Renovation/Addition Phase III

Project Cost \$ 25,514,606

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Wellness Center

Project Cost \$ 16,500,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Student Housing Apartments Fire Alarm System Replacement

Project Cost \$ 4,400,000

Funding Source: Student Housing Reserves

UC West Electrical Transformers and Supply Panels Replacement

Project Cost \$ 1,500,000

Funding Sources:

FY22 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	500,000
FY23 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	500,000
Special Projects	\$	500,000

Cooling Tower 3 Replacement

Project Cost \$ 550,000

Funding Source: FY24 State Repair and Rehabilitation

Exterior Signage Replacement

Project Cost \$ 500,000

Funding Sources:

Parking Reserves	\$	250,000
Landscape Improvement Reserves	\$	250,000

LEDs for Campus

Project Cost \$ 472,000

Funding Sources:

Special Projects	\$	400,000
FY23 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	50,000
FY22 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	22,000

Replace Boilers in O'Bannon Hall

Project Cost \$ 425,000

Funding Source: Housing Reserves

Fiber to Softball Field, Security Cameras on Broadway Fields

Project Cost \$ 350,000

Funding Source: Special Projects

Orr Center Accounting Dept. New Offices

Project Cost \$ 252,000

Funding Source: Special Projects

Athletic Facilities Improvements

Project Cost \$ 240,000

Funding Source: Special Projects

Education Bldg., Rm. 1101 Roof and Masonry Repairs

Project Cost \$ 235,000

Funding Source: FY23 State Repair and Rehabilitation

Projects In Design

Health Professions Renovation/Addition Phase IV

Project Cost \$ 50,000,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2023

Wright Administration Renovation/Addition

Project Cost \$ 32,000,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2023

New Creative and Print Services Bldg.

Project Cost \$ 2,500,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Recreation Fitness & Wellness Center Storage and Bike Shop Addition

Project Cost \$ 2,500,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Atheneum HVAC Improvements

Project Cost

\$ 750,000

Funding Sources:

FY24 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$	500,000
Special Projects	\$	250,000