

MINUTES
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 3, 2016

The Academic Affairs Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in the University Center on campus. Present were Committee Chair Ira G. Boots and Trustees John M. Dunn, and Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76. Also in attendance were President Linda L. M. Bennett, Provost Ronald S. Rochon and Vice President Andrew W. Wright.

Committee Chair Boots called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and turned the meeting over to Provost Rochon for an introduction of the report.

1. REPORT ON INTENTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Shelly Blunt, associate provost for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Marcia Kiessling, associate provost for Student Affairs, discussed collaborations between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs in a presentation entitled, "Supporting Students Holistically – An Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Partnership."

Dr. Blunt discussed the different areas listed under the Academic Affairs umbrella. Dr. Kiessling explained that Student Affairs promotes affiliation for retention and success of students by providing supportive services and programs, and is accountable for compliance of federal Title IX regulations.

For the past five years, student activity and participation on campus has increased. For example, visits to the Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center have increased by 23,743 students. Cinema USI has increased by 71 total movie showings each year and the number of student organization meetings and events has increased by 2,521.

Mr. Boots commended Dr. Kiessling and the Student Affairs staff on the increased number of activities provided for students to promote the 24/7 campus initiative.

Several initiatives have been implemented to improve the students' well-being. The Counseling Center has added staff to allow for additional appointments with students. Various USI staff have attended Suicide Intervention Training and have conducted student outreach to inform students of available resources. In addition, a CARE Team has been formed and meets weekly. The CARE Team is chaired by the Dean of Students and includes representatives from Public Safety, Counseling Center, Multicultural Center, Disability Resources, and Housing and Residence Life, as well as the associate provost for Academic Affairs and the associate provost for Student Affairs.

Dr. Kiessling discussed changes designed to improve the students' first-year experience. In 2015 orientation was re-designed to create affiliation and increase parent involvement. Student Affairs views parents as partners, and offers them sessions as part of the orientation activities as well as a parent reception hosted by either the President or the Provost.

The Eagle Experience occurs during Welcome Week and all freshmen are required to participate in this day-long event. During the Eagle Experience, students discuss various topics of interest with new students to promote academic acclimation and affiliation.

Beginning in 2014, all new students were required to enroll in the course UNIV 101. This course is an introduction to USI and the undergraduate experience focusing on academic success, campus involvement, community engagement, and career exploration.

In addition to support from the Student Affairs areas, students receive a variety of academic support. The Disability Resources Center coordinates services and academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure equal access to University facilities, programs, services, and resources

The Living Learning Communities (LLC) help students create strong links between daily life and learning experiences in the classroom. Students in the LLC are freshmen with similar interests, goals, and academic programs who are placed on designated floors of the residence halls. Approximately 200 students make up the nine LLCs at USI – Business, Nursing and Health Professions, STEM, Honors, Global Community, Social Justice, Exploring Majors, Education, and Performing Arts. Research has shown that the University retains LLC students at a much higher rate than other resident students.

Tutoring for students is available in the Academic Skills department in addition to the Multicultural Center, Recreation, Fitness and Wellness Center, David L. Rice Library, Education Center, and some academic departments. Tutoring is available in math and subject-based areas. Writing consultations, reading assistance, and academic coaching/study skills assistance are also available.

The University received a \$3 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. to enhance internship and co-operative education programs and create collaborative initiatives aimed at increasing the likelihood of graduates pursuing entrepreneurial-focused careers. The Strong Interest Inventory is one initiative funded through this grant.

Academic year fellowships for faculty and staff are available through the Provost's Office for both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs in alternating years. Fellowship applications are reviewed by a search committee that selects the fellow for the upcoming academic year. This program began in 2013-2014 with Iris Phillips, chair of the Social Work Department and professor of Social Work. Amy Price, interim director of Housing and Residence Life participated in this program during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Provost Rochon announced that three programs: manufacturing engineering, mechanical engineering, and physics have all been approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.