

MINUTES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 6, 2018

The Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 6, 2018, in the Griffin Center on campus. Present were Committee Chair Ronald D. Romain '73, and Trustees Jeffrey L. Knight, and Ellis Redd. Also in attendance were Faculty Senate Chair Charles A. Conaway, Interim Provost Mohammed F. Khayum, and Vice President for Enrollment Management Andrew W. Wright.

1. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Dr. Mohammed Khayum, interim provost, provided an update on Academic Affairs. Dr. Khayum stated that the fall semester was off to a good start. The 2018 Student Convocation was well received by the students. He announced the 2nd Annual Faculty Convocation is to be held on Friday, October 12, 2018. USI is continuing to work with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education on three initiatives: a multi-state collaborative project on improving the quality of student learning; electronic-transcripts; and a web portal that will allow students to search for programs offered across the state of Indiana. Lastly, Dr. Khayum informed the Committee that the University is in the beginning stages of the search for a new Provost.

2. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Andrew Wright, vice president for Enrollment Management, gave an enrollment update. However, he noted official census is taken on September 14, 2018; therefore, the information given is current but not official.

Vice President Wright reported a decrease of 4.1 percent (71 students) in freshman enrollment. While there were slight increases in the number of out-of-state students and students from the southern portion of Indiana, the number of students from Indianapolis and the northern part of the state decreased significantly. However, the quality of the incoming class is evident by the increase in grade point average (GPA). The current average GPA is 3.39 as opposed to last year's 3.36.

There was a decrease of almost 30 students from Ivy Tech Community College – Evansville; however, Mr. Wright noted a three percent increase in transfer student enrollment. Much of the growth came from students attending out-of-state community colleges.

Increases in graduate student enrollment surpassed the fall 2017 record of 1,308 students and the overall record of 1,378 graduate students set in spring 2018. Currently, the total overall number of graduate students is 1,439. Mr. Wright announced a decrease in overall undergraduate enrollment without counting dual credit or CAP students.

The retention rate for first-time, full-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students is 72.1 percent from fall 2017 to fall 2018. The second highest in USI history. The retention rate for first-time, full-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students from fall 2016 to fall 2018 is 60 percent. The third highest in USI history.

Mr. Wright concluded his report stating the four-year graduation rate for students starting in fall 2014 is 35.8 percent; the five-year graduation rate for students starting in fall 2013 is 45.8 percent; and the six-year graduation rate for students starting in fall 2012 is 45.8 percent. All are record highs.

3. PRESENTATION ON INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE REGIONAL CODING CAPACITY

Allison Grabert, director of Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center, discussed the University of Southern Indiana's efforts to expand opportunities for middle school and high school students to learn computer programming. Dr. Srishti Srivastava, assistant professor of Computer Science, was unable to participate in this presentation.

Ms. Grabert began her presentation by introducing herself and explaining the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center is the early recruitment and K-12 arm of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education. The Center is located on the third floor of the Health Professions Center. As the director of the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center, it is Ms. Grabert's responsibility to stay on top of emerging trends in STEM education and fill gaps in programming accordingly.

In a congressionally mandated report completed in 2007, the U.S. National Academy of Science quantified the impact of the decline of U.S. STEM literacy and the consequences of the decline on the United States citizens and the economy. The 690-page report was titled, "Rising above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future." Some examples of the report findings include: fewer than one-third of United States fourth grade and eighth grade students performed at or above proficient levels in mathematics; 68 percent of United States eighth grade students received instruction from a mathematics teacher who did not hold a degree or certification in mathematics; and United States twelfth graders performed below the international average for 21 countries on a test of general knowledge in mathematics and science. Four recommendations came from the report: increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 mathematics and science education; sustain and strengthen the nation's commitment to long-term basic research; develop, recruit, and retain top students, scientists, and engineers from both the U.S. and abroad; and ensure that the United States is the premier place in the world for innovation.

In 2007, the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center was created as a regional approach to address the national STEM crisis. This Center provides professional development opportunities for teachers; student outreach activities; and equipment lending services and is only one of ten hubs still functioning as it was intended.

In 2017, President Trump directed the U.S. Department of Education to make teaching computer science a priority in supporting high-quality STEM education in schools across the country and in post-secondary training. In addition, the Indiana General Assembly approved a bill requiring public schools to include computer science in each school's curriculum beginning in 2021. In Indiana, 58 percent of STEM jobs are in computing, but only eight percent of STEM graduates are in Computer Science. In addition, the number of women in computer positions has declined since 1990.

The University's Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center created programs to help with the computer science education. In fall 2017, a graduate assistantship was created to devote, coordinate, and execute the first "Girls Who Code Club" at the University of Southern Indiana. The dean of the Romain College of Business then became involved and introduced Dr. Srishti Srivastava to the project. In spring 2018, the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center launched the "Bro Code," a new club for boys. Summer clubs also have been created. The fall 2018 clubs are scheduled to begin the week of September 10, 2018.

In conclusion, Ms. Grabert stated the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center will continue to serve the regional K-12 schools through its programming and create a home university to these students served every year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.