

## MINUTES

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

#### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 2, 2021

The Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 2, 2021, in Carter Hall ABC on campus. Present were Trustees, W. Harold Calloway, serving as committee chair, Jeffrey L. Knight, Christine H. Keck, and Liam H. Collins '23. Also present was Provost Mohammed F. Khayum.

#### 1. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Dr. Mohammed Khayum, Provost introduced Mr. Rashad Smith, Executive Director for Enrollment and Dr. Michael Dixon, Director of Graduate Studies to provide enrollment updates.

Mr. Smith reported the goal for new freshman for Fall 2021 was 1,525, an 18 percent increase over Fall 2020. The increased goal correlated with the greater opportunity from the primary market and larger number of early applicants of high school seniors. Enrollment of new freshman reached 87 percent of the goal or 1,336 new freshmen students.

Dr. Dixon provided a report on graduate student enrollment. He indicated graduate students account for 22.7 percent of the total student population for Fall 2021. As of August 23, 2021, the number of graduate students enrolled totaled 1,804. Dr. Dixon credited several initiatives that moved them toward enrollment goals. A new application process allowing potential students to complete a single application was implemented, and modifications to program admissions criteria to remove barriers and create pathways for inactive students to return to class were added. In addition, a few face-to-face programs were converted to accelerated and online formats.

#### 2. FINANCIAL AID OPTIMIZATION AND IMPACT OF TEST OPTIONAL ENROLLEMENT

Rashad Smith, Executive Director for Enrollment began his presentation by providing context on the financial aid optimization initiative and recent changes related to financial assistance. The scholarship framework was modified to adjust to the evaluation of grade point average rather than test scores which was implemented with the current test optional policy. The University also utilized net price comparisons to consider the implications for additional need-based aid. Mr. Smith explained how net price is determined and that USI has a higher net price than the average of the comparison group for some household income levels. This is important to financial aid optimization for enrolling and returning students. A partnership with Education Advisory Board will help identify the focus areas for financial aid optimization, strategic aid policy, financial aid analytics, simulation model and aid policy monitoring and possible opportunities within these areas.

Mr. Smith presented data from the first-year implementation of the test optional policy which allows students to decide if their SAT or ACT test scores are considered for admission. More than 50 percent of USI applicants preferred not having their test results considered and 34 percent of enrolled students did not submit a test score. There was a direct correlation between applicants' grade point average and inclusion of test scores for admission. Preferences varied among majors. Mr. Smith noted that not using SAT or ACT test scores in the admission process resulted in an increase in the number of placement tests taken.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.