

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 2, 2021

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 2, 2021, in the University Center on campus. Present were Chair Ronald D. Romain '73; and Trustees W. Harold Calloway; Liam H. Collins '23; John M. Dunn; Daniel M. Fuquay; Christine H. Keck; Jeffrey L. Knight; and Christina M. Ryan. Trustee Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76 was absent. Also, in attendance were President Ronald S. Rochon; Provost Mohammed Khayum; Vice President for Finance and Administration Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95; Vice President for Marketing and Communications Kindra L. Strupp; Vice President for Development David A. Bower; Vice President for Student Affairs Khalilah T. Doss; Chief Government and Legal Affairs Officer Aaron C. Trump; Faculty Senate Chair Rex M. Strange '92; and Student Government Association President Anna Ardelean '22.

Chair Romain called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

SECTION I – GENERAL AND ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2021, MEETING

On a motion by Ms. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Dunn, the minutes of the July 15, 2021, meeting of the Board of Trustees were approved.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Mr. Romain called on Vice President Strupp, who reported the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, November 4, 2021, on campus in the Griffin Center.

C. REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee met prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on September 2, 2021. Mr. Romain called on Committee Chair Christine Keck for a report. Ms. Keck reported that the Committee heard updates from Mr. Rashad Smith and Dr. Michael Dixon regarding graduate and undergraduate enrollments. The Committee also reviewed a presentation on the Financial Aid Optimization initiative and the first year of Test Optional admissions provided by Executive Director for Enrollment Rashad Smith.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chair Romain called on President Rochon for his report. Dr. Rochon began by reporting on the 2021 Fall University Meeting. In 2019, USI was able to have a true all university meeting for the first time. The capacity of the – then new – Screaming Eagles Arena, facilitated an all-employee meeting. In 2020, due to COVID-19 social distancing and other safety protocols, we were not able to meet safely as a community in that space. We set another historical marker in that the Fall University Meeting was conducted via Zoom communications, recorded, then viewed by USI employees at a time convenient for them. Due to the delta variant, USI decided to hold the meeting virtually again in 2021. However, USI is smarter, more nimble, and has learned a lot over the past 18 months. USI is confident with these continued types of calibrations, we will be able to maintain in-person programming and instruction this Fall Semester.

Recently, President Rochon was invited to Cary, North Carolina by the Institute for Citizens and Scholars to be a panelist at their Higher Education Symposium. In a moderated panel discussion, President Rochon and two other fellows identified existing gaps in equity and access for underserved populations and discussed the roles in which leaders can play in fostering cultural awareness and understanding.

Monday, August 23, marked the first day of classes for fall 2021. Leading up to that was USI's Welcome Week. Student Affairs provided various programming and assistance to new and returning students and their

families. They did an excellent job in modifying and adapting these activities to seamlessly provide safe engaging experiences for all. Activities included: Move-in, Screagle Family Fun Night, Welcome Back BBQ, New Student Dinner, and much more. Due to the COVID-19 delta variant, the Student Convocation was moved to a virtual/hybrid format. The three-member platform party and 25 distinguished students held the in-person portion of the ceremony in USI's Performing Arts Center, which was also live-streamed for viewing by the larger community. Overall, even with modifying many events to provide safe and engaging experiences, USI's Welcome Week was a success, and the Fall Semester is off to a very good start. President Rochon directed the Trustees to the Welcome Week brochure and class pin in their Board packets. This year's class pin was created by Senior Art and Design major, Alex York.

This summer USI began offering classes in the discipline of Agricultural Business through the Romain College of Business with eight students in AGBU 304 – Business Technology with Advanced Agricultural Applications (drone class). For Fall 2021 USI has 20 students enrolled in AGBU 303 – Farm and Ranch Management and will offer the class Agricultural Economics in the spring. Right now, these Ag classes are offered as electives to USI students. With these, and the addition of courses in Ag finance – commodities – marketing, etc., USI will offer an Agricultural concentration under its Business Administration degree program.

USI received notice from ABET – the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology – that the BS in Civil Engineering and BS in Electrical Engineering programs have been accredited through September 2025. These were the final two programs in engineering to receive accreditation. All engineering programs will be realigned for accreditation together in 2024.

President Rochon announced USI's annual Founder's Day Luncheon on September 15, at 11:45 a.m. in Carter Hall. This year Alumnus Michael Carroll '88 will be honored with the Alumni Service Award, and the Faculty Recognition Award will be awarded to Jill Raisor '03, and Jerry Bulger will receive the Honorary Alumni Award.

On Thursday, September 16, from 4-6 p.m. USI will have a brief outdoor program, media availability and Open House for the newly completed Screaming Eagles Complex and Aquatic Center. Additionally, USI's newest sculpture, "The Screaming Eagle" will be dedicated. This in-person event will provide an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and the greater community to experience the beautiful new spaces through small group, student-led tours to several areas of interest in the buildings. Guests will have the opportunity to hear from experts on the unique academic and athletic features of the spaces. Hot dogs, drinks and cookies will be available for all at this public event.

The USI Alumni Association will host the members of the class of 1971 for a 50th class reunion on September 24 and 25. The event will kick-off with a showing of an iconic movie from 1971 – The Andromeda Strain. The event will continue the next day with a breakfast, tour of the Screaming Eagles Complex, class photo, driving tour of campus, archive exhibit and luncheon. Of the 151 class members, 129 are living and 70 of those within a 50-mile radius of USI. The class established a scholarship endowment as part of this milestone celebration. The \$12,500 goal was achieved earlier this year. USI has received reservations from class members who live as far as Florida and Alabama to date. USI is looking forward to welcoming these iconic USI family members back home.

Dr. Rochon announced beginning with today's meeting and moving forward, USI will begin reporting on Support Staff retirements to the Board of Trustees in Section III PERSONNEL MATTERS, along with those of faculty and administration as has been done in the past. This new reporting aligns with the President's philosophy and campus community culture of equity and inclusiveness.

President Rochon called on Vice President Strupp for a report from Marketing and Communications on the unit's initiatives to advance progress towards USI's targeted goals within the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Vice President Strupp presented "Elevate Visibility and Reputation" which provided an overview of USI's reputation strategy using personality archetypes discovered through Carnegie Dartlet research. Personality macro strategies were used to develop reputation building marketing campaigns and narratives. To enhance visibility, USI will be featured in a TV series titled "The College Tour" which streams on Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, IMDb TV, Roku, and Google TV. USI's episode will air on the College Tour TV Channel through eight different platforms and each episode is promoted through its own newsletter that is sent to over 60,000 high school college counselors.

President Rochon called on Provost Khayum for a report from Academic Affairs. Dr. Khayum introduced Ms. Kristie Byrns, Director of the Center for Adult Learner Success (CALs) for a report. Ms. Byrns provided an overview on the newly established center. The mission of the CALs is to meet Indiana workforce needs through career readiness and advancement opportunities for adult learners. The CALs plans to meet their goals through performance metrics and targets that create pathways through partnerships, communication and accessibility. The CALs purpose is to improve operational effectiveness to enhance the experience of adult learners.

President Rochon called on Vice President Bower for an update from the Presidential Task Force. Mr. Bower reported a total of 902 individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 since March 2020 – 806 students and 96 employees. In the past week, positive cases were on the rise with 15 students and three employees testing positive. All individuals regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask indoors on campus and keep three feet of social distancing. The University continues to stress the urgency of being vaccinated to serve the common good. The University Health Center continues to offer vaccinations to all age-eligible persons by appointment.

Dr. James Porter joined the Task Force meeting on Wednesday, August 4. He noted “we are on a very steep curve with the delta variant and are in the middle of a new surge.” Dr. Porter urged all those eligible to be fully vaccinated. Those who are vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized or have severe illness if they contract COVID. Dr. Porter was congratulated on being named the 2021 Volunteer of the Year; an award given by Volunteer USI.

An updated version of the University’s COVID-19 training presentation for students, faculty and staff was sent on August 25. The presentation contains current information that outlines the protections provided by the vaccine, and how a person’s vaccination status impacts potential isolation and quarantine decisions in the event of a positive test or close contact.

Mr. Bower concluded his report noting the city-wide weekly COVID-19 teleconference, led by Deaconess Health Systems, was reinstated on August 18. Included in this call are local hospitals, Vanderburgh County Health Department, the Mayor’s Office, County Council and all local education institutions K-12 and higher education.

President Rochon called on Athletic Director Jon Mark Hall for a report on USI Athletics. Mr. Hall presented “A Year in Review 2020-2021,” which provided highlights of team and individual student athlete achievements over the past year, including USI’s Volleyball GLVC Championship. Mr. Hall concluded his report noting the 2020-2021 GLVC Commissioner’s Cup Standings with USI receiving the top ranking with a score of 81.

President Rochon asked for a report from Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Rex Strange. Faculty Senate held its initial meeting for this academic year and elected Kim Delaney as vice chair. Senate has begun its work to appoint membership for various University committees and has begun to receive new charges. Dr. Strange is working with Senate sub-committees to review outstanding charges from last year and has asked for a review of committee bylaws to be completed this year.

Dr. Rochon called on Student Government Association (SGA) President Anna Ardelean for a report. Ms. Ardelean began stating on August 21, SGA collaborated with new Student and Transitional Programs to host a New Student Dinner for Welcome Week, where 273 students were served. From this event, SGA gained 94 new followers on Instagram and received seven applications for vacant positions and for the First Year Leadership Council, a program specifically designed for new students.

SGA officially launched its Of, By, For campaign where the Student Government Association will be Of the Screagles, By the Screagles, and For the Screagles. To be “Of” the Screagles, SGA is focusing on recruitment and making sure the general assembly is truly reflective of the student body. This involves reaching out to different student groups and possibly making changes to governing documents to ensure better representation of different areas of student life. To be “By” the Screagles, SGA will be improving transparency through focused communication efforts, making sure students know what SGA is working on. This includes working closely with the Shield and utilizing Special Events and University Communications. To be “For” the Screagles, SGA is boosting outreach programs, by starting a series of public forums to bring SGA to the students, rather than expecting them to come to SGA. The first of these public forums will feature Mayor Winnecke as the guest speaker.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. REPORT OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair Romain called on Trustee Ryan for a report from the Finance/Audit Committee. Ms. Ryan reported that the committee met prior to the Board of Trustees meeting and heard a report on the Voluntary Employees' Benefit Association (VEBA) Trust Fund. The committee reviewed and approved the unchanged Investment Policy Statement for the VEBA Trust and the University Investment Policy Statement. Additionally, the audits completed by the Internal Audit Department thus far in 2021, the revised audit plan, and the construction change orders approved by the Vice President for Finance and Administration were reviewed. Lastly, the committee recommended the 2022-2023 housing and meal plan rates.

B. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 HOUSING RATES

Mr. Romain called on Vice President Bridges for a review of the recommendation for the 2022-2023 housing rates. Mr. Bridges proposed a rate increase of \$51 per semester for 2022-2023, or approximately two percent for the most common occupancy contract; two students per bedroom. The proposed rate will be \$2,585 for a double occupancy room. The rate recommendation includes maintaining the same rate for one student per bedroom in a two-bedroom unit and one student in a one-bedroom unit. Mr. Bridges advised that interest in these living arrangements has increased, therefore holding the price steady may create more demand which will increase revenue from housing. He noted they will continue to work with Student Affairs to maintain programming in the complexes and to maintain a comprehensive maintenance program that keeps USI well positioned in price and quality.

Upon a recommendation of the Finance/Audit Committee to the Board of Trustees, the following 2022-2023 housing rates were approved.

	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
<u>FALL OR SPRING SEMESTER</u>			
<u>McDONALD or O'DANIEL APARTMENT</u>			
Two Bedroom: Two students per bedroom	\$2,534	\$2,585	7-01-22
One student per bedroom	4,437	4,437	7-01-22
One Bedroom: Two students	3,056	3,056	7-01-22
One student	5,566	5,566	7-01-22
<u>GOVERNORS, NEWMAN, O'BANNON, or RUSTON HALL</u>			
Two Bedroom: Two students per bedroom	\$2,534	\$2,585	7-01-22
One Bedroom Studio: One student	3,056	3,056	7-01-22

Students who live in housing will have \$50 in Munch Money added to the proposed housing rates above for use in any venue on campus.

SUMMER SESSIONS

Summer session rates are pro-rated to fall and spring semester rates.

C. APPROVAL OF 2022-2023 MEAL PLAN RATES

Mr. Romain called on Vice President Bridges for a review of the recommendation for the 2022-2023 meal plan rates. Mr. Bridges noted for the start of the 2021-2022 year, USI had 297 meal plans less than the prior year, a 20 percent decrease. This is a result of on campus undergraduate student enrollment and housing declines. USI proposed a \$92 increase to \$2,394 per semester, a four percent increase that equates to \$2.79 per week. This larger increase is based upon rising food costs and increased labor costs.

Upon a recommendation from the Finance/Audit Committee to the Board of Trustees, the proposed meal plan rates for 2022-2023 were approved.

<u>FALL OR SPRING SEMESTER</u>	<u>CURRENT RATE</u>	<u>PROPOSED RATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Red, White, or Blue Eagle Meal Plan	\$2,302	\$2,394	7-01-22

Approval of the proposed meal plan rates for 2022-2023 is recommended.

D. REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS APPROVED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Romain called on Vice President Bridges to review the construction change orders approved by the vice president for Finance and Administration. Mr. Bridges directed the Trustees to Exhibit II-A, a listing of the change orders related to the Physical Plant Expansion and Physical Activities Center Renovation that do not exceed the \$50,000 approval authority by the Vice President for Finance and Administration and are therefore informational only.

E. UPDATE ON CURRENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Romain 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-B for a list of projects and a summary of the cost and funding sources for each project.

SECTION III - PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. REPORT ON FACULTY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND STAFF RETIREMENTS

Mr. Romain called on Provost Khayum, who reviewed the following faculty, administrative, and staff retirements.

Custodial Worker Charles E. Blane, retired on July 31, 2021, after 15 years of service.

Associate Professor of Art Education Joseph Uduehi, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective July 1, 2022, after 23 years of service, including leave with pay from January 5, 2022, to May 7, 2022.

Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions Mark A. Rusk, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective July 1, 2022, after 23 years of service, including leave with pay from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

Provost's Senior Administrative Associate Sheree L. Seib, retired on July 31, 2021, after 23.5 years of service.

B. APPROVAL OF EMERITUS STATUS

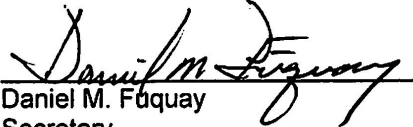
Mr. Romain called on Provost Khayum, who recommended approval of emeritus titles. On a motion by Mr. Fuquay, seconded by Mr. Knight, the following titles were approved.

Associate Professor Emeritus of Art Education Joseph Uduehi

Associate Director Emeritus of Undergraduate Admissions Mark A. Rusk

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel M. Fuquay
Secretary

**Summary of Construction Change Orders
Authorized by the Vice President for Finance and Administration**

PHYSICAL PLANT EXPANSION

Danco Construction, Inc. - General Contractor

CO PP002 Golf Cart Storage, tile in restroom, chiller electric circuits. \$ 2,140.13

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES CENTER (PAC) RENOVATION PHASE II

Empire Contractors, Inc. - General Contractor

CO P039 No framing, paint concrete, panic devices, delete rubber flooring \$(47,518.00)

**Summary
Construction Projects**

September 2, 2021

Projects Completed

Physical Activities Center (PAC) Phase II

Project Cost **\$ 38,500,000**

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2017

Projects Under Construction

HVAC Infrastructure Improvements

Project Cost **\$ 3,700,000**

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Projects In Design

Health Professions Renovation/Addition

Project Cost **\$ 30,000,000**

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Wellness Center

Project Costs **\$ 11,000,000**

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Exterior Signage Replacement

Project Cost **\$ 500,000**

Funding Sources:

Parking Reserves \$ 250,000

Landscape Improvement Reserves \$ 250,000

Atheneum Tile Roof Replacement

Project Cost **\$ 320,000**

Funding Sources:

DW Vaughn Endowment \$ 100,000

Atheneum Upgrades and Maintenance \$ 153,871

New Harmony Project Reserves \$ 66,129

Beale House Repairs and Improvements

Project Cost **\$ 170,000**

Funding Source:

New Harmony Project Reserves \$ 170,000