

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 7, 2023

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 7, 2023, 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; John M. Dunn; Daniel M. Fuquay; Fouad L. Hamami '25; Jeffrey L. Knight; and Ronald D. Romain '73. Chair Keck and Trustee Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76 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; Chief Government and Legal Affairs Officer Aaron C. Trump; Faculty Senate Chair T. Kyle Mara and Student Government Association President Adrianna E. Garcia '24.

Trustee Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

SECTION I – GENERAL AND ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2023, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Romain, the minutes of the meeting on July 13, 2023, of the Board of Trustees 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, November 2, 2023, on campus in the Griffin Center.

C. REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ryan reported the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee met prior to the Board of Trustees meeting and heard a report from Mr. Troy Miller, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, and Dr. Shelly Blunt, Interim Provost, on a project called "Improving Student Retention Through Data Analytics." The Lilly Foundation, Inc. funds this project through its Charting the Future initiative. It is a partnership with five other Indiana universities. The project aims to use predictive analytics to improve student retention and graduation rates. The committee was also introduced to new academic leaders Dr. William Elliott, Interim Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, and Dr. Julie McCullough, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, who each provided an introduction to their vision for their respective colleges.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustee Ryan called on President Rochon for his report. President Rochon announced the University of Southern Indiana Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education has received two grants from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) totaling \$528,000 with a goal of advancing the quality of STEM instruction throughout the state. One grant will fund the Teaching Eagles Scholarship Program which gives students majoring in STEM or education with a minor in STEM fields the opportunity to receive a tuition stipend and attend regional conferences. Led by Dr. Kelly Sparks, Associate Professor of Education, this grant totals \$240,000. The other grant, NEXIDE, will fund New Experiences in Mathematics Education which offers support for future dual credit teachers in Indiana public schools who are seeking dual credit credentialing, including their Master of Science in Education. The grant will also support elementary teachers and it will continue to fund the annual Quantitative Reasoning Conference for high school teachers. Led by Dr. Rick Hudson, Professor of Mathematics, the NEXIDE grant totals \$288,000.

President Rochon reported that all 78 Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who graduated in May 2023 and took the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) in June and July have passed on their first attempt. The

NCLEX is an exam required to become a registered nurse, and USI's 100% pass rate is over 12% above the year-to-date national pass rate of 87.6%, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. USI Nursing's first-time RN licensure pass rates have been consistently in the 96-100% range for the past five years, which is a good measure of USI's excellent nursing education. USI has always been confident that our USI Nursing graduates were well prepared upon graduation from our program. However, the 100% pass rate reaffirms that our graduates have the critical knowledge and skills to enter the nursing profession.

The USI Dental Hygiene Program is brushing away the competition! All 25 members of the Class of 2023 achieved a perfect 100% first-attempt pass rate on all four licensure exams. These smile-savers proved that dedication and hard work pay off!

The USI Respiratory Therapy Class of 2023 also achieved a 100% pass rate on the NBRC Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) exam. The attainment of a 100% pass rate on this national board exam holds paramount significance. This achievement not only elevates USI's reputation but instills a sense of pride and accomplishment in the graduates, fostering their success and advancement within the profession. Every member of this cohort had secured employment prior to graduation. Dr. Rochon congratulated the Class of 2023 and their incredible achievements!

This year's Fall University Meeting was held again in the Screaming Eagles Arena on Tuesday, August 15. The meeting kicked off with a video from the President since he was unable to be present because of a last-minute meeting called by some of our state legislators in Indianapolis. Interim Provost Blunt provided a meaningful time-worthy experience to the campus community to start the academic year. Five faculty award recipients were recognized at the Fall Meeting:

- Dr. Jill Raisor '03, Professor of Education, was named the 2023 Distinguished Professor Award recipient. Dr. Raisor joined the USI faculty full-time in 2010 as Teacher in Residence, and over the course of her tenure has served as a Children's Learning Center Liaison and Coordinator, Chair of Teacher Education and Professor of Education.
- Dr. Mark Krahling, Associate Professor of Chemistry, was named as the 2023 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award recipient. Dr. Krahling joined the University in 1994 and has served as Director of University Core Curriculum and Associate Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, in addition to his current role as Associate Professor.
- Dr. Bohan Ye, Assistant Professor of Economics, is the 2023 Outstanding Teaching Award by New Faculty recipient. Dr. Ye joined the University in 2020 and is recognized for the sophistication and complexity of the structures of her courses and her innovative approach to engaging students using a variety of means to introduce material and build mastery of various topics.
- Dr. Trent Engbers, Director of the Master of Public Administration Program and Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, is the recipient of the 2023 Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award. Engbers has been with the University since 2013 and is recognized for his commitment to the community through his multifaceted work, positively impacting numerous individuals and nonprofits in the community.
- The 2023 Award for Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member was presented to Dr. Lionel Phelps, an adjunct in Psychology.

Monday, August 21, marked the first day of classes for fall 2023. Leading up to that was USI's Move-in and Welcome Week. USI provided various programming and assistance to new and returning students and their families. The Fall Semester is off to a very good start. Since 2011, USI has presented new incoming students with a pin to represent their connection with USI and commemorate the year they begin their academic journey with us. Dr. Rochon directed the Trustees to the class pin in their packets. A current student traditionally designs this pin. This year's pin was designed by Maliah White, a member of the Class of 2023. Maliah is majoring in Graphic Design and also Public Relations and Advertising.

USI has been included in the fifth annual "America's Best-in-State Employers" rankings for the second year in a row. According to a nationwide survey conducted on behalf of Forbes by Statista, USI is ranked 56th, up six spots from its 2022 ranking, alongside national employers such as Adobe, United Parcel Service and Tesla.

The 2023 Founder's Day Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, September 13, at 11:45 a.m. in Carter Hall. This year Alumnus Ron Boren '81 will be honored with the Alumni Service Award. The Faculty Recognition Award will be presented to Kent Scheller and the Honorary Alumni Award will be presented to Mrs. Neal Franklin, a longtime friend of the University.

USI's 12th annual Essence of Excellence Summit will be held September 29th in Carter Hall. This year's theme, "Excellence is a Mindset," aims to provide all college students—especially those of a historically underrepresented background—with the knowledge, tools and skills to achieve a better version of themselves. The Summit is an inclusive program designed to address topics relevant to students at the University, especially those of African American and/or Latinx heritage. Workshops included in the summit will provide students with knowledge and application around a specific skill or topic that will aid in students' success during their collegiate journey and beyond.

President Rochon called on Vice President Bridges for a report from Finance and Administration. Mr. Bridges announced USI's Kiwibot delivery robots launched on Monday, August 21, 2023, with a fleet of 15 robots. Kiwibot robots use artificial intelligence to navigate campus sidewalks without human intervention. They deliver to all areas of campus accessible by sidewalk, including campus housing. Robot operating hours align with campus dining location hours and are available seven days a week. All Kiwibot orders are placed in the Grubhub app, and a \$3 delivery fee is applied per order.

To get started, users open the Grubhub app, choose from a range of items available at select campus dining locations and then select robot delivery at checkout. Once their order is placed, diners can track the robot's journey through an interactive map. When the robot arrives, the diner receives an alert and can access the items by unlocking the robot through the app. The delivery usually takes just a matter of minutes, depending on the menu items ordered and the distance the robot must travel.

To ensure safe operations on campus, Kiwibot relies on cutting-edge technology, including high-tech sensors, reflective flags, night lights and a range of lidar to create a real-time virtual visualization of its surroundings. Human supervisors are present to provide additional assistance if required, and an on-site team is available to offer immediate support. The cost of each unit is approximately \$1,200.

USI began with 40 daily deliveries and has been exceeding 100 daily deliveries on weekdays and 40 on weekends. The goal is 200 deliveries per day. There is no delivery yet for Starbucks, the Loft, or Eagle Bistro. USI is working with Starbucks to expand for delivery but must work through some corporate items first. The Loft and Eagle Bistro do not lend themselves for this service yet as they function as "made to order" venues. However, as technology and processes advance, these may be options in the future. (Two Kiwibots served the Board members food items live, as Mr. Bridges provided the report.)

President Rochon called on Dr. Kyle Mara for a report from Faculty Senate. He reported Faculty Senate held its annual retreat on August 18, 2023, to kick off its agenda for the year. Senate elected Dr. Nick Rhew, Assistant Professor of Management, as Vice-Chair and Dr. Brandon Field, Associate Professor of Engineering, as Secretary. Dr. Mara has also reached out to each Faculty Senate Standing Subcommittee to coordinate their first meeting of the year and make them aware of their work in the year ahead.

In addition to the Senate's role in considering faculty charges throughout the year, they are focused on investing in the students and faculty of USI to increase communication and opportunities for growth. They also continue coordinating with the administration to complete the assessment and review of all academic programs at USI. Dr. Mara will continue the work he began last year as a liaison from both the Faculty Senate and the Assessment Committee to help coordinate this process over this academic year.

President Rochon called on Student Government Association (SGA) President, Adrianna Garcia for a report. Ms. Garcia began by reporting the Student Government Association Social was a great success. It included inflatables on the quad as well as the Lolly's Pops truck. SGA gave away 250 t-shirts in 20 minutes and 300 ice cream popsicles in under an hour. They also received quite a few applications to SGA during the event.

The involvement fair had a great turnout and more students applied to be in SGA at this event. SGA also had the opportunity to receive feedback from students and begin working on concerns from the student body.

SGA's main goal this year is to collaborate with and assist other student organizations in any way possible. Recently, the Panamanian Association asked for assistance with an upcoming event and SGA has begun by helping with planning. Ms. Garcia concluded her report noting she is excited to see what other ways SGA can assist the student body this year and looks forward to continuing to report on its successes.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. REPORT OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ryan called on Trustee Fuquay for a report. Mr. Fuquay reported the Finance/Audit Committee met prior to the Board of Trustees meeting and

- 1) heard a report on the Voluntary Employees' Benefit Association (VEBA) Trust Fund;
- 2) reviewed and approved the revised Investment Policy Statement for the VEBA Trust;
- 3) performed the annual review of the approved unchanged Investment Policy Statement for the University;
- 4) recommended the 2024-2025 housing rates which will be presented to the Board later in this agenda;
- 5) recommended the 2024-2025 meal plan rates also to be presented to the Board later in this agenda;
- 6) reviewed the audits completed by the Internal Audit Department thus far in 2023 and reviewed the annual audit plan; and
- 7) reviewed the construction change orders that were issued by the Vice President for Finance and Administration and those approved by the Construction Committee related to the Wellness Center and Health Professions.

B. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 HOUSING RATES

Trustee Ryan called on Vice President Bridges for approval of the 2024-2025 housing rates.

Upon a recommendation of the Finance/Audit Committee to the Board of Trustees, the following 2024-2025 housing rates were approved.

<u>FALL OR SPRING SEMESTER</u>	<u>CURRENT RATE</u>	<u>PROPOSED RATE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
<u>Mc DONALD or O'DANIEL APARTMENT</u>			
Two Bedroom: Two students per bedroom	\$2,489	\$2,564	7-01-24
One student per bedroom	4,341	4,471	7-01-24
One Bedroom: Two students	2,960	3,049	7-01-24
One student	5,470	5,634	7-01-24
<u>GOVERNORS, NEWMAN, O'BANNON, or RUSTON HALL</u>			
Two Bedroom: Two students per bedroom	\$2,489	\$2,564	7-01-24
One Bedroom Studio: One student	2,960	3,049	7-01-24

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 2024-2025 MEAL PLAN RATES

Mrs. Ryan called on Vice President Bridges for approval of the 2024-2025 meal plan rates.

Upon a recommendation of the Finance/Audit Committee to the Board of Trustees, the following 2024-2025 meal plan rates 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	\$2,491	\$2,616	7-01-24

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

Mrs. Ryan 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 containing change orders related to the Wellness Center and the Health Professions projects. He noted two of the change orders are below the \$50,000 amount that would require Board approval. The first involved electrical and data changes which are common as projects advance. In addition, casework changes were made, and fiber mesh was added to concrete mixtures to reduce the risk of surface cracking that often occurs in the life of a structure.

Change order 003 for \$189,934 exceeded the \$50,000 approval authority by the Vice President for Finance and Administration. This change order for the Health Professions project resulted from the decision to move air compressors closer to the dental clinic and the elimination of a dark room which was determined to be unnecessary. Mr. Bridges presented this change order to the construction committee of the Board which is composed of the Finance/Audit Committee members on August 31, 2023. Mr. Bridges concluded his report by noting Trustees Fuquay, Dunn, and Romain approved the change order by email as is required by the procedure. The last step in the process is to present the changes to the Board.

E. 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-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

Trustee Ryan called on Interim Provost Shelly Blunt to review the following retirements.

Director of University Creative and Print Terri J. Bischoff in accordance with the regular retirement policy, will retire effective January 3, 2024, after 16.5 years of service.

Professor of Finance Manfen W. Chen in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective July 1, 2024, after 20 years of service, including leave with pay from January 2, 2024, through May 7, 2024.

Lead Desktop Support Technician David E. Estel, retired on September 6, 2023, after 25 years of service.

Associate Professor of Engineering Glen J. Kissel in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective July 1, 2024, after 20 years of service, including leave with pay from January 2, 2024, through May 7, 2024.

B. APPROVAL OF EMERITUS STATUS

Mrs. Ryan called on Interim Provost Blunt, who recommended approval of emeritus titles. On a motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Calloway, the following titles were approved.

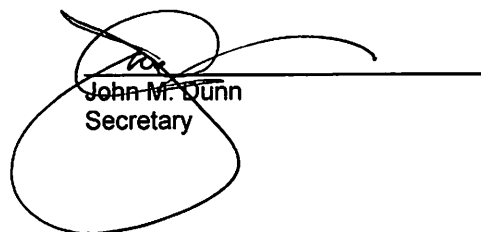
Director Emerita of University Creative and Print Terri J. Bischoff

Professor Emerita of Finance Manfen W. Chen

Associate Professor Emeritus of Engineering Glen J. Kissel

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John M. Dunn
Secretary

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

WELLNESS CENTER

Empire Contractors Inc. – General Contractor

CO 010	\$19,325
Casework Revisions, third floor electrical and data changes, casework locks, change concrete mixture to include fiber mesh.	

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Empire Contractors Inc. – General Contractor

CO 002	\$46,902
HVAC hot water valve replacement, dental area under slab waste pipe replacement, change concrete mixture to include fiber mesh.	

CO 003	\$189,934
Replaced the Dark Room with a Mechanical Room to move the air compressors and vacuum pumps, used by Dental, closer to the point of use per supplier's advice. Installed mechanical and electrical to, in, and from the room, mostly under the floor slab. Cut and replaced floor slab as needed. Equip a storage room to be an X-ray room. Change the Viewing Room, with computers for viewing X-rays, to a locker room. Change a storage room to a Viewing Room, with computers. Added a drinking fountain to Dental area. Due to the complexity and amount of mechanical and electrical work for the new Mechanical Room, the work had to be started immediately to minimize the effect these changes had on the scheduled completion dates for Dental areas. Changed piping in lower level to allow for a bariatric lift. Added wireless access point in lower level.	

**Summary
Construction Projects**

September 7, 2023

Projects Recently Completed

HVAC Bldg. Controls and Programs Upgrades

Project Cost **\$ 2,919,000**

Funding Sources:

HEERF	\$ 1,400,000
Energy Management Controls	\$ 600,000
Special Projects	\$ 500,000
FY22 State RR	\$ 419,000

UC West Variable Air Volume (VAV) Modernization

Project Cost **\$ 170,000**

Funding Source: FY23 State Repair and Rehabilitation

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

Exterior Signage Replacement

Project Cost		\$ 500,000
Funding Sources:		
Parking Reserves	\$ 250,000	
Landscape Improvement Reserves	\$ 250,000	

Athletic Facilities Improvements

Project Cost		\$ 240,000
Funding Source: Special Projects		

LEDs for Campus

Project Cost		\$ 122,000
Funding Sources:		
Special Projects	\$ 50,000	
FY23 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$ 50,000	
FY22 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$ 22,000	

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		

Atheneum HVAC Improvements

Project Cost		\$ 750,000
Funding Sources:		
FY24 State Repair and Rehabilitation	\$ 500,000	
Special Projects	\$ 250,000	

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	

Cooling Tower 3 Replacement

Project Cost		\$ 550,000
Funding Source: FY24 State Repair and Rehabilitation		