

MINUTES

JOINT FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 11, 2024

The Finance/Audit Committee and the Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met in a joint session on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the Griffin Center on campus. Present were Trustees W. Harold Calloway; Daniel M. Fuquay; Fouad L. Hamami '25; Jeffrey L. Knight; Ronald D. Romain '73; Christina M. Ryan and Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76. Trustees John M. Dunn and Christine H. Keck were absent. Trustee Christina M. Ryan served as chair for this joint session. 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; and Faculty Senate Vice Chair Nicholas D. Rhew.

Trustee Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

1. REPORT ON PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS

Chair Ryan called on Vice President Bridges for a report. Mr. Bridges explained Public Safety serves a critical role for the University beyond protection and safety. He introduced Interim Director of Public Safety Sam Preston to provide an overview of Public Safety operations. The leadership team for Public Safety currently includes the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Interim Director of Public Safety, and two Staff Sergeants. In 2023, Public Safety completed 17,394 runs including medical/mental health assists, traffic accidents, locks/unlocks, escorts, motorist assists, traffic accidents, and more. Public Safety provides 24/7 campus protection with a dedicated dispatch and all staff are certified as either Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained. Public Safety officers are customer service oriented and work in conjunction with USI's partnership with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office.

USI Public Safety has several methods to send and receive communications with the USI community. One of the most recent and effective tools is the Rave Guardian application which can be installed on any smartphone. The app has a one-button call feature, text to dispatch, and safety timer amongst other features.

Mr. Preston demonstrated various camera views from campus and discussed the Flock cameras that are being installed near campus and used by law enforcement agencies to read license plate numbers of passing vehicles. USI Public Safety also hosts various events on campus like "Coffee with a Deputy." Mr. Preston concluded the report by discussing various training programs provided by Public Safety including CPR, Stop the Bleed, Suicide Prevention, Self-Defense/Situational Awareness, Active Shooter training, Verbal De-escalation, and a campus safety overview for each UNIV 101 class.

2. STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Chair Ryan called on Troy Miller, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, for an enrollment update. Mr. Miller provided an overview of undergraduate enrollment of new students for fall and spring freshmen and transfer students including 2023 to 2024 comparisons of applications, admissions, deposits, and enrollments. Fall freshmen applications, admits, and deposits have all shown increases from 2023 to 2024 as well as fall transfers. Spring freshmen applications have increased slightly from 2023 to 2024, while admits, deposits, and enrollments have all shown decreases. Spring transfers from 2023 to 2024 show decreases in all categories.

Mr. Miller reviewed the Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 graduate applications and headcounts. Continuing and total headcount have increased for graduate students. Fall 2023 to 2024 graduate applications and admits have shown decreases as of the January 8, 2024, reporting date.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE RESULTANT STUDENT INTERVENTION PORTAL

Chair Ryan called on Interim Provost Shelly Blunt who introduced Interim Chief Data Officer Greg Johnson for a report. The University of Southern Indiana partnered with the University of Indianapolis through the Lilly Endowment: Charting the Future Grant (phase 3) to develop and deploy a tool in collaboration with consulting firm Resultant. This tool helps to predict which students might drop out and identifies the factors contributing to their risk. The overarching goal is to address the challenge of student retention in higher education students in Indiana. Leveraging innovative and adaptable solutions improves decision-making processes through data-driven approaches.

The project components included process improvement through training greenbelts to develop strategies using the Six Sigma process. USI also collaborated with the consultant team to develop an institution-specific retention prediction model and tool while enhancing its data infrastructure to provide data tools for decision support. The retention prediction model included four project phases with defined expected outcomes. It uses a theoretical approach specifically tailored to USI, leveraging currently available data to analyze principle predictive factors. USI worked with data managers across campus to understand the data available and identify key data elements that could feed the model. The data tool assigns a student success score which reflects the probability a student will retain to the next semester and the next year, is updated weekly, and identifies the risk and success factors for each student enrolled at USI.

USI plans to pilot the tool this semester with a college advising center and integrate it with our new Slate CRM - Student Success Module. USI will provide feedback to Resultant for additional tool improvements through detailed summary reports, data exports for additional analysis, and model performance evaluation tools. We are working to develop a data resource tool that integrates USI's existing data sources into a central resource that can be accessed for reporting and analysis; and automates the extraction, transformation, and loading of commonly used data for reporting and analysis, initially for enrollment management.

Mr. Johnson concluded his report by summarizing the Charting the Future initiative. USI's participation in the collaboration on the grant has provided resources to advance the Strategic Plan goal of Improving Student Success and has helped to advance a data-informed culture across campus.

There being no further business, the joint committee meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.