

MINUTES  
Joint Meeting of the Finance and Long-Range Planning Committees  
January 8, 1987

The Finance and Long-Range Planning Committees of the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern Indiana met in joint session on Thursday, January 8, 1987, in the Hilton Hotel, Indianapolis.

Mr. Brooks convened the meeting and called on Dr. Reid for a discussion of preparations for the institutional accreditation review by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Reid called attention to the self-study reports given to the Board and reviewed the importance of accreditation to educational institutions. He told the committees that the University first applied for its own accreditation in the early 70s. He said accreditation for the maximum period of ten years was granted in 1979. He pointed out that because the University changed its status from a regional campus to a separate state university, the next review had been accelerated. Dr. Reid said a five-member team would visit in March, spend three days at USI, and write a report of their observations. The University should receive the formal report by July or August. He said there are two major purposes of the accreditation review: (1) public affirmation and (2) assistance to the University in improving the University. According to Dr. Reid, the North Central Association is interested in the University's educational programs, governance system, financial well being, and student services. Dr. Reid said the visitation team would be asking (1) if the institution has clear and publicly stated purposes which are consistent with its mission, (2) if there is an effective organization of human, physical, and financial resources to support the educational purposes, (3) if the institution is accomplishing its purposes, and (4) if USI is in a position to accomplish its purposes in the future. He said that preparing for the review allows the University to take a thorough and objective look at itself. Dr. Reid also pointed out that some activities conducted as a part of the self study would be continued, including both student and graduate outcomes surveys. Dr. Weathersby observed that the process allows an external group to ask questions which probably are different from the questions a Board of Trustees might ask.

Dr. Reid then reviewed developments regarding the Master of Business Administration degree program which the Commission for Higher Education approved for USI and University of Evansville. A lengthy discussion ensued with many questions about the Board's fiscal responsibility, and the University's appropriate role in overseeing not only the development of the program, but also in resolving curricular and admission questions. There also was considerable discussion about the value of pursuing accreditation from the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Dr. Weathersby said the AACSB accreditation process has a research orientation which is inappropriate for two-thirds of the schools of business. He said USI should be guided by the businesses and students in southwestern Indiana as curriculum is developed; and that it must serve the place-bound, nontraditional age students, who are part-time students otherwise employed in southwestern Indiana businesses.

Dr. Rice pointed out that the advantages of the cooperative program are that (1) it allows USI faculty to teach in a graduate program, (2) the public tuition rates will increase the number of students who can afford to enter the program, (3) it gives USI the fiscal authority.

Generally, the concerns expressed by the trustees were that USI should have involvement in the entrance/admission of students into the program, that USI should have some control over the academic qualifications of faculty employed in the program, that students have the option to receive a degree from either USI or UE, that the program should be operation-oriented rather than research-oriented, and that there be a match of accountability and responsibility. The discussion was tabled until the convening of the regular Board meeting.