AGENDA

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 2, 2017

1. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REVIEW

Mr. Andrew Wright, Vice President for Enrollment Management, will provide an overview of the University of Southern Indiana's key performance indicators (KPIs).

2. APPROVAL OF A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Approval of a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve the degree program in Attachment A is recommended.

The Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education proposes to offer a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree. A complete abstract describing the program is in Attachment A. The proposed implementation date is fall 2017.

ABSTRACT
Doctor of Education
To be offered in a blended format with some online coursework and some face-to-face
by the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana

Consistency with Institution's Mission:

The proposed Doctor of Education (Ed.D) program resonates with the University's institutional mission: "An engaged learning community, advancing education and knowledge, enhancing civic and cultural awareness, and fostering partnerships through comprehensive outreach programs. We prepare individuals to live wisely in a diverse and global community." The statement begins and ends with "community," and it is precisely that concept that drives the entire structure and make-up of the proposed Ed.D. program. A community-based focus sets this program apart from other doctoral programs in education and aligns with the University mission "to enhance civic and cultural awareness and to prepare individuals to live (and lead) wisely in a diverse and global community." Candidates in the program will engage in field-based experiences in their local area schools, not-for-profit agencies, and community organizations.

Relation to Institution's Strategic and/or Academic Plan:

The University of Southern Indiana's 2016-2020 strategic plan includes three overarching goals:

- Excellence in Learning for the Entire USI Community;
- Access and Opportunity by Design; and
- Purposeful and Sustainable Growth.

The proposed Ed.D. program contributes to each of these. With respect to the first, the creation of this program was a response to a large contingent of area educators (alumni and therefore part of the USI community) who asked that USI offer an education doctoral program. The requests came because there is no ready access to a state-supported institution in southern Indiana offering an Ed.D. program. Therefore, this proposal to fill that need is about providing access and opportunity, the second overarching strategic goal. Lastly, adding the Ed.D. program will help USI grow purposefully – adding a graduate-level program that will have a positive effect on schools and communities in southern Indiana and the tri-state region.

Curriculum:

For students coming to the program with a master's degree in education, a minimum of 60 credit hours will be required. For students seeking admission to the program with a master's degree in another field, additional master's level coursework in education will be required. The overarching curricular plan includes the following: research methods,12 credits; program core, 18 credits; concentration,15 credits; and dissertation/culminating project,15 credits.

Employment Possibilities:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for school administrators nationally will grow by six percent over the next eight years and in Indiana, the growth rate will be closer to seven percent and even higher in Kentucky.[1] Indiana's Department of Workforce Development projects a ten-year growth rate of 9.5 percent for Indiana.[2] Rapid turnover, particularly among superintendents in some volatile districts, can distort the overall employment picture.[3] What is clear, however, is that the typically short employment duration of a superintendent inhibits the ability of a school district to build a unifying educational vision. This circumstance places a burden on institutions of higher education to revamp administrator preparation programs, to produce administrator candidates capable of navigating a complex political milieu and developing trust through open communication with teachers, staff, and community stakeholders.[4] Today, administrators need deep intellectual grounding in community-based educational theory, and practical formal experience negotiating school-community dynamics.

---

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016, March). *Handbook on Occupational Outlook*. Retrieved from Projections Central: http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm.

[2] Indiana Department of Workforce Development. (2016). Retrieved from http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov/FD/overview.aspx.

The proposed University of Southern Indiana Doctor of Education program has been created to address these issues.

The genesis of the University of Southern Indiana Doctor or Education responds to needs on two levels. The first is to help the state fill administrator vacancies by preparing more leaders; the second significant focus, is to help the state to prepare leaders capable of doing more, by virtue of their preparation.

The proposed program will give education professionals in Indiana convenient access to an innovative, high-quality doctoral program.

---

[3] Glass, L. G. (2003). The Superintendent Shortage: Findings From Research on School Board Presidents. *Journal of School Leadership*, 264-287.

[4] Combs, H. S. (2015). Four Essential Practices for Building Trust. *Educational Leadership*, 18-22.