

MINUTES
Joint Meeting of the Finance and Long Range Planning Committees
March 5, 1987

The Finance and Long-Range Planning Committees of the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern Indiana met in joint session in the USI University Center on Thursday, March 5, 1987. Present were Trustees William Brooks, Percy Clark, Joseph O'Daniel, John Pruis, Carole Rust, and Eric Williams; Honorary Trustee Al Woll; President David Rice; Vice Presidents Donald Bennett, Robert Reid, Sherrienne Standley, and Byron Wright; and Faculty Council Chairman Charles Price.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Brooks who turned discussion over to Dr. Bennett and Dr. Reid. Dr. Bennett explained the development and format of the University Handbook, a document still in draft form, but nearing readiness for review and approval by the Board. He said the document has evolved from one used while associated with Indiana State University, subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of Incorporators, and kept in use by a resolution passed by the USI Board of Trustees on July 1, 1985. Since that time the document has been scrutinized by the administration and faculty and extensive rewriting has been accomplished. Dr. Bennett noted that the handbook also has been reviewed by a Columbus, Ohio, law firm which specializes in this type of work. He said the document was presented to the Board at this time for information purposes and when revisions are complete, it will be brought back for the Board's formal review and approval.

Dr. Reid discussed the sections still being revised as recommended by the reviewing law firm. He said specific areas where changes are expected include the curricular committee process, Faculty Council by-laws, and some policy vs. procedure changes in personnel areas. Specifically, discussion centered on setting of policy for granting leaves of absence. Mr. Brooks felt the Board should adopt a policy which allows the administration to grant leaves under guidelines established by the Board. Dr. Rice discussed the changes in philosophy by institutions about involvement of the trustees at varying levels and said the procedures in the old handbook probably reflect another era in institutional management.

Discussion then centered on the hearing/appeal process of the University as currently prescribed in the handbook and the problems which might occur if it is followed. Dr. Rice explained that the current policy reflects some agreements reached by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) with Indiana State University after considerable difficulties at ISU.

Mr. Brooks suggested that the Board should look carefully at the sections which directly affect the Board and which affect its relationship with the faculty and employees of the University. Dr. Pruis agreed and said that the Board also has a responsibility to insure that a set of policies and procedures are in place which will assure that the employees can operate under minimal standards of practice. Mr. Fair pointed out that it is important for the document to be fluid.

Dr. Bennett invited the trustees to make known their concerns or questions so they can be reflected in the revisions.

On another matter, Mrs. Rust informed the committees that the Alumni Association has been reviewing and refining its activities and will be making changes in the future.

The meeting was adjourned and the executive session was convened.