

MINUTES
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 9, 2009

The Long-Range Planning Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Saturday, May 9, 2009, in the University Center. Present were Committee Chair W. Harold Calloway and Trustees Jamie L. Johnson '09, and Steven Schenck '72. Also in attendance were Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda L. M. Bennett; Vice President for Student Affairs Robert W. Parrent; Faculty Senate Chair Lesa Cagle; and Student Government Association President Amy Beard.

Committee Chair Harold Calloway convened the meeting at 11 a.m.

1. REVIEW OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Calloway called on Provost Bennett, who reviewed the New Program Development Plan (Attachment A). She noted the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the Master of Arts in Communication and Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and the new programs will be proposed to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by the end of summer 2009.

2. APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

Mr. Calloway asked Provost Bennett to review a proposal to approve the Master of Arts in Communication (Attachment B). The proposed implementation date is fall 2010.

The purposes of the proposed Master of Arts in Communication are: to offer a program full-time students can complete in two years of study; to offer a program part-time students can complete in three to four years; to develop and deliver a program flexible enough to serve practitioners and aspiring academics alike; to produce graduates who are skilled and logical problem solvers who can apply those skills to real situations; and to equip students with analytical and practical tools that foster the ability to lead.

The proposed program is comprised of 36 semester hours: 9 required hours in theory/methodology; 21 elective hours in content courses; and 6 hours of directed research with thesis and capstone project options.

The Report on the 2007 President's Taskforce on Workforce and Economic Development indicated a graduate program in communications was the second most highly needed graduate program in the University of Southern Indiana service region.

Provost Bennett noted the program is recommended by the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and has been approved by the Graduate Council, the Academic Planning Council, and the president.

On a motion by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Schenck, the committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve the Master of Arts in Communication.

3. APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Mr. Calloway called on Provost Bennett to review a proposal to approve the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (Attachment C). The proposed implementation date is spring 2010.

The two primary objectives of the proposed biochemistry program are: to provide baccalaureate prepared biochemists for scientific careers in suitable industries such as biotechnology, pharmacology, and environmental chemistry; and to prepare students for graduate study or professional schools in medicine,

pharmacy, and related fields. The Pott College of Science and Engineering will offer the program with existing courses and one new additional course.

The proposed program will have two degree options -- an American Chemical Society approved track and a non-American Chemical Society approved track. The program will be comprised of a minimum of 124 semester hours. Depending on the degree option, the program will consist of 40-47 hours in chemistry and 11-25 hours in biology. Several pre-requisite courses include 8-10 hours in physics and 4-8 hours in calculus. The necessary 50 credit hours in the University's core curriculum and elective courses complete the requirements. In addition, the program will require two hours of biochemistry related research and students will be encouraged to participate in cooperative work assignments, internships, and research opportunities nationally.

The program is recommended by the Dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering and has been approved by the University Curriculum Committee, the Academic Planning Council, the Faculty Senate, and the President.

On a motion by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Schenck, the committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry.

4. REPORT ON STUDENT LIFE

Vice President Parrent introduced Amy Beard, 2008-2009 president of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Jeff Threlkeld, 2008-2009 president of the Activities Programming Board (APB), who reported on structures, functions, and many activities of their organizations. Ms. Beard reported on the accomplishments of SGA, including \$25,000 in foundation travel grants awarded to students; Operation Iraqi Children, a philanthropy project where students gathered and shipped school supplies to children in Iraq; participation in interviews for final USI presidential candidates; formation of the Student Trustee Search Committee; and the Commuter/Night Student Reception. Ms. Beard introduced Bob Wolfley, who will be president of SGA in 2009-2010. Mr. Threlkeld reported on the many activities planned for students by APB, including speakers, comedians, movies, homecoming events, a Friday Night Live series created to provide entertainment to students on Friday evenings, and special events programs including a block party, a music video dance party, and chill outs. He introduced Abbey Arenas, who will be president of APB in 2009-2010.

Dr. Parrent presented an executive summary about activities of the division of Student Affairs during 2008-2009, including excellent attendance at open houses; a successful Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Luncheon program; improved efficiency as a result of technology enhancements; the new Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA); the Recreation and Fitness Center Expansion Project; "going green" initiatives; and other accomplishments of the division during 2008-2009.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

**Attachment A
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
New Program Development Plan**

**Revised by Academic Planning Council
March 30, 2009**

Associate Degree

Baccalaureate Degree

Graduate Degree

2007-2009 Biennium

Criminal Justice

2009-2011 Biennium

Anthropology
Arts and Heritage Management
Biochemistry
Business Economics
Business/Engineering
Entrepreneurship
Environmental Science
Geography
Health Informatics
International Business
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Respiratory Therapy
Sport Management

Communication
Food and Nutrition (Dietetics)
Health Administration (MSW/MHA)
Physical Therapy
Public Health Administration (MSW/MPA)
Special Education/Exceptional Needs

2011-2013 Biennium

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Environmental Science
History (MA)
Human Performance
Imaging Sciences
Medical Records and Health Informatics
Occupational Therapy
Pharmacy

2013-2015 Biennium

Forensic Science

ABSTRACT

Master of Arts in Communication

To be offered on-campus and via hybrid and distance education
by the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana

Objectives:

The purposes of the proposed Master of Arts in Communication are: 1) to offer a program full-time students can complete in two years of study; 2) to offer a program part-time students can complete in three to four years; 3) to develop and deliver a program flexible enough to serve practitioners and aspiring academics alike; 4) to produce graduates who are skilled and logical problem solvers who can apply those skills to real situations; and 5) to equip students with analytical and practical tools that foster the ability to lead.

The program will provide students with an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving in the field of communication. Our students can expect to examine a variety of problems through the lens of communication in areas as diverse as technological change, international relations, conflict and negotiation, organizational functioning, personal relationships, regional economic development, corporate responsibility, community outreach, and consensus and coalition building. We deliberately adopt pedagogical techniques, such as a case study approach, that develops our students' problem solving abilities and critical thinking skills. Our hands-on capstone experience connects our students' learning experience with real-life problems and will be a service to the community. For students who want to pursue advanced graduate studies, a thesis option will be offered that will allow them to gain additional experience in conducting academic research.

Students who complete the Master of Arts in Communication will be able to apply their increased knowledge of communication processes, contexts, theories, and research methodologies to further their career and educational goals.

Clientele to be Served:

The Master of Arts in Communication program will be appealing to students who wish to further their education beyond the Master of Arts and to students who are seeking the Master of Arts as a terminal degree in order to achieve organizational advancement. Students who wish to pursue a doctorate following the completion of the program will be equipped with theoretical and methodological knowledge that is expected of a rigorous Master of Arts program. Students who will pursue the Master of Arts for organizational advancement will receive a valuable education about how to conduct research ethically and how to apply data in order to solve practical organizational problems.

Curriculum:

A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from a regionally or comparably accredited institution will be required for all applicants applying to the Master of Arts in Communication program. Although applicants do not need to hold an undergraduate degree in an area of communication, preference will be given to applicants with an education background in communication or other social sciences disciplines.

The proposed Master of Arts in Communication is comprised of 36 semester hours: 9 required hours in theory/methodology; 21 elective hours in content courses; and 6 hours of directed research with thesis and capstone project options. Based on the projected course rotation, full-time students will complete the program in two years.

The proposed program, by taking an integrative approach, will provide students with a more well-rounded education in that students will learn not only about human communication within organizations and relationships, but also mass communications processes, such as journalistic writing and advertising strategies.

Employment Possibilities:

Individuals earning a Master of Arts in Communication from the University of Southern Indiana can pursue careers in any number of fields, including but not limited to: advertising/public relations management; communications directing in healthcare and business organizations; human resources; media management; nonprofit organization directing; communication training and development; and communication consulting.

ABSTRACT

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
To be offered on-campus by the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana

Objectives:

The two primary objectives of the proposed biochemistry program are: to provide baccalaureate prepared biochemists for scientific careers in suitable industries such as biotechnology, pharmacology, and environmental chemistry; and to prepare students for graduate study or professional schools in medicine, pharmacy, and related fields.

The proposed program in biochemistry will provide students the opportunity to earn an interdisciplinary baccalaureate degree separate from the currently existing degrees in biology and chemistry. The field of biochemistry focuses on the scientific study of the chemistry of living systems, their fundamental chemical substances and reactions, and their chemical pathways and information transfer systems, with particular reference to carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids.

Clientele to be Served:

The biochemistry program will serve both traditional and non-traditional students from Indiana, particularly southwest Indiana and the Tri-state region. Since no such program exists at a public higher education institution within a 120-mile radius of Evansville, this program also will attract students from western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Additionally, this program will provide further educational opportunities for graduates from two-year associate degree programs, especially biotechnology graduates from Ivy Tech Community College and transfer students from other two- and four-year biology and/or chemistry programs.

An articulation agreement with Ivy Tech Community College-Evansville has been produced and is awaiting signatures. The agreement will allow graduates with associate degrees in biotechnology from Ivy Tech Community College-Evansville to seamlessly transfer to the biochemistry program at the University of Southern Indiana.

The biochemistry program is intended for full-time students with the majority of upper-level classes offered during the daytime hours. A limited assortment of evening classes will be available.

Curriculum:

The Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry will be comprised of a minimum 124 semester hours. Depending on the degree option, ACS or non-ACS approved, the program will consist of 40-47 hours in chemistry and 11-25 hours in biology. The total hours required within the program is consistent with other interdisciplinary degree programs. In addition, there are several pre-requisite courses that include 8-10 hours in physics and 4-8 hours in calculus. The necessary 50 credit hours in the University's core curriculum and elective courses complete the requirements. The program will require two hours of biochemistry related research, and students will be encouraged to participate in cooperative work assignments, internships, and research opportunities nationally.

BA/BS - ACS Approved

47 hours chemistry
11 hours biology
10 hours physics
8 hours calculus

BA/BS - non-ACS Approved

40 hours chemistry
23-25 hours biology
8 hours physics
4 hours calculus

Employment Possibilities:

Graduates of the proposed program will be prepared for application to advanced degree programs such as medical, dental, or pharmacy schools or graduate programs in biochemistry, chemistry, or biology. Additionally, graduates will be prepared for immediate employment in medical, industrial, and government positions as scientists, lab technicians, research assistants, and chemists.

The expanding field of biotechnology and pharmaceutical research in Indiana will result in additional job opportunities for these graduates. In addition, anticipated growth in agriculture and bio-fuels industries will increase job opportunities for graduates. With the advances in biotechnology and the concomitant expansion of career opportunities in biotechnology, the proposed program will provide highly marketable graduates seeking such careers.