

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE
AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEES**

June 4, 1987

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Committees for Finance and Long-Range Planning met in joint session in the University Conference Center on June 4, 1987. Those present were Trustees William Brooks, Robert Fair, John Pruis, Carole Rust, George Weathersby, and Eric Williams; honorary Trustee Al Woll; USI President David Rice, Vice Presidents Donald Bennett, Robert Reid, Sherrienne Standley, and Byron Wright; and Faculty Council Chairman Rebecca Englert.

Dr. Weathersby convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. He asked Mr. Wright to lead the discussion on the finance topics. Mr. Wright informed the committee members that the University is considering some changes in the life insurance program to take advantage of current beneficial rates and prepare the University for future changes. He asked Cindy Newhouse, director of personnel, to explain specific details of program changes under consideration. Discussion of costs and alternatives followed and several suggestions were made for obtaining the best employee coverage while containing costs for the University. Additional consideration will be given to these suggestions before a final plan is brought to the board.

Mr. Wright informed the committees that the earlier recommendation of a 4.9 percent increase in fees likely will be the final recommendation at the July board meeting. He distributed information comparing fee increases at all the state universities and pointed out that USI undergraduate fee increase is the lowest. He also distributed the actual fee schedule which will be recommended for approval at the July Board meeting, the summary of legislative recommendations for USI's budget requests, and the budget summary for USI. Mr. Wright reviewed the budget documents and noted that the total budget increase is 10.7 percent. Discussion centered on the budget, its formulation, and the Commission for Higher Education's influence on setting institutional priorities. Mr. Brooks observed that there appears to be a disparity between the perceived needs at the University and perceived needs of the Commission. Dr. Rice said this ties to concerns USI has expressed to the Commission about the formulation of the Higher Education Services Plan and the Biennial Budget Request. He hopes the Commission staff will be more receptive to using the process they advocate or forego the process.

Dr. Reid reviewed the budget as it regards academic areas and gave brief explanations and the status of each program funded, as well as those not funded.

Mr. Wright explained that the request for proceeding with planning for the new building has been sent to the Governor's Office and the University is hoping that the Commission for Higher Education has added its recommendation to proceed. He said that no fee replacement was added to the budget during this biennium because of the manner in which legislative approval was given the building project, but the University is obtaining information from bonding companies on ways to solve any problem which might be presented. The University will be prepared to present funding solutions to the Budget Committee, and feels optimistic that approvals will be forthcoming from all agencies. These items concluded those to be considered by the Finance Committee.

Dr. Weathersby called on Dr. Reid for items under consideration by the Long-Range Planning Committee. Dr. Reid called the members' attention to the Higher Education Services Plan and explained its use for the Commission for Higher Education. He

said the Mission Statement, item A, is the portion of the Plan needing immediate attention. He said the Commission does not expect major revision of the Mission Statement, and that often USI's statement is presented as a model for other institutions. He pointed out changes he felt were necessary to update the document. Dr. Weathersby suggested that the University staff prepare similar statements which would be aimed at different audiences, such as potential students or potential donors. These could be used in other institutional documents. Carole Rust distributed a document she prepared which summarizes the Mission Statement. She said this distilled document may help the Board members to understand the overall commitment to the institution and communicate that commitment to various public segments. She invited the Board members to react to the document and assist in its refinement. Dr. Reid also invited Board members to let him know, before the July meeting, of any changes they wished to make in the Higher Education Services Plan.

Dr. Reid said the next step is setting forth the short-range and long-range programs of the institution, and distributed the Commission's basic menu of programs which will become important as future planning occurs. He also told the committee members that the University is preparing proposals for a baccalaureate degree program in German and an associate degree program in early childhood development.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.