

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 9, 2009

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2009, in Carter Hall in the University Center. Present were Chair John M. Dunn and Trustees Ira G. Boots, W. Harold Calloway, Jeffrey L. Knight, Amy MacDonell, Lauren K. Raikes '11, Ronald D. Romain '73, Steven J. Schenck '72, and Ted C. Ziemer Jr. Also in attendance were President Linda L. M. Bennett; Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Nadine A. Coudret; Vice President for Government and University Relations Cynthia S. Brinker; Vice President for Student Affairs Robert W. Parrent; Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer Mark Rozewski; Faculty Senate Chair Lesa Cagle; and Student Government Association President Robert Wolfley.

Mr. Dunn called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed Dr. Linda Bennett to her first meeting as president of the University of Southern Indiana. He also welcomed Dr. Nadine Coudret to her first meeting as interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. He introduced student trustee Lauren K. Raikes, who was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Governor Mitch Daniels on June 26, 2009. Mr. Dunn was pleased to welcome back Faculty Senate Chair Lesa Cagle, who was re-elected chair of the Senate for 2009-2010, and welcomed Bob Wolfley to his first meeting as president of the Student Government Association for 2009-2010.

SECTION I - GENERAL AND ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2008, MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Schenck, seconded by Mr. Calloway, the minutes of the May 9, 2009, meeting of the Board of Trustees were approved.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION

Mr. Dunn called on Vice President Brinker, who reported the Board will meet in regular session on Thursday, September 3, 2009, in the University Center.

C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bennett expressed appreciation to the Board of Trustees and others in the University community for their support and shared her excitement and anticipation regarding the future of the University of Southern Indiana.

She was pleased to join Mr. Dunn in welcoming Lauren Raikes to her first meeting as a Trustee. She noted that Ms. Raikes is a Presidential Scholar and biology major from Speedway, Indiana, who plans to pursue a career in medicine. She is a student ambassador, a member of the Pott College Student Advisory Board and the Pre-Professional Health Club, and is active in the USI Honors Program. Dr. Bennett quoted a letter of recommendation in which one of her professors described Lauren as "...very passionate about USI and its mission within the region and state." He said, "I believe one of Lauren's best attributes is that she is a natural leader and has the best interests of the University at heart."

She also welcomed Bob Wolfley, the 2009-2010 president of the Student Government Association. She expressed appreciation for his leadership in SGA.

Dr. Bennett reported that USI is among 150 colleges recently recognized in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* second annual Great Colleges to Work For survey. The Great Colleges to Work For program recognizes institutions for specific best practices and policies. USI was recognized in the areas of facilities/security and work space conditions. To participate in the program, USI agreed to a two-part

assessment process: 1) a survey administered to a randomly selected group of faculty and staff; and 2) an institutional audit of workplace demographics, policies, and practices. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback collected from faculty and staff members.

The Chronicle stated "while the slumping national economy has made this among the most difficult years ever to work for a college, the survey results paint a picture of administrators, professors, and staff members who remain largely upbeat about their jobs and employers..." President Bennett noted the University of Southern Indiana is fortunate to have a group of dedicated and loyal employees who are creative, who do more with less, and who are excited about their jobs and the mission of the University.

Dr. Bennett called on Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Nadine Coudret for a report about her plans and priorities for 2009-2010. Provost Coudret noted that she looks forward to the opportunity to serve in her interim position. She reported that Academic Affairs leadership will engage in planning and prioritizing activities at its meeting in August 2009. Issues to be considered are:

- Continue to grow USI's on-line courses and program delivery;
- Offer more alternative scheduling of credit courses and programs;
- Work to bring more diversity to USI;
- Review, support, and increase (as appropriate) international study opportunities for faculty and students;
- Enhance relationships and expand articulation agreements with regional and state community colleges; and
- Assess recruitment, development, recognition, and retention of adjunct faculty.

Dr. Bennett called on Lesa Cagle, chair of Faculty Senate, who reported the Senate membership is complete and the group is prepared to begin its work on behalf of the faculty. A goal of the Senate in 2009-2010 is improved communication with faculty in all areas of the University.

The president asked SGA President Bob Wolfley for a report. Mr. Wolfley reported that the Student Government Association has set goals for 2009-2010. Fall activities will include sponsorship of the annual Welcome Dinner for new students and the observance of Alcohol Awareness Week. A new SGA web site will soon be available.

Dr. Bennett referred the Trustees to a brochure for the 2009 season at The New Harmony Theatre and encouraged them to attend the two remaining productions this summer –*Harvey* and *Guys and Dolls*. She remarked that the University is very pleased to bring excellent professional theatre to the region through the New Harmony Theatre.

Also in the Trustee materials were two other documents. One was the most recent edition of *Southern Indiana Review*, a compilation of poetry and fiction from regional authors published under the auspices of USI, with support from Indiana Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts. The second was a copy of the *Parents and Families Calendar and Handbook* provided by the office of Student Development Programs and the Parents and Families Association.

President Bennett was happy to report that Michael Aakhus, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana 2009 Artist of the Year. Also a professor of art who is highly regarded by his students, Mr. Aakhus has organized and led numerous community and student trips to Mexico and Latin America over the years. His works have been exhibited throughout this country and in Mexico and are part of numerous private collections.

She asked the Board to join her in congratulating Trustee Ira Boots, who recently was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Midwest region. Mr. Boots is Chairman and CEO of Berry Plastics Corporation in Evansville and received the award in the private equity/venture capital backed category for his efforts in business and community improvement.

President Bennett invited the Trustees to tour of the Recreation/Fitness/Wellness Center expansion project immediately following the meeting. The first phase of the 45,000 square foot expansion opened in May, and students and employees now have access to new cardio, weightlifting, and exercise areas. She announced

the official opening and ribbon-cutting will take place on September 3 in conjunction with the September Board of Trustees meeting.

D. REPORT ON INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Dunn called on Vice President Brinker for a report on the Indiana General Assembly. Ms. Brinker reported that during a special legislative session, the General Assembly passed a two-year, \$27.8 billion state budget on June 30, 2009. The University's operating appropriation in 2009-2010 will be \$39,044,222, a decrease of approximately 3.3 percent from 2008-2009. In 2010-2011, the University's operating appropriation will increase by 0.3 percent to \$39,172,365. The General Assembly also appropriated funds to restore operating support to institutions of higher education to the level of fiscal year 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The University will receive approximately \$3 million over the biennium to be used for one-time expenditures and \$1.4 million in 2009-2011 for repair and rehabilitation projects.

Ms. Brinker referred the Trustees to two handouts, *Summary of 2009-2011 Biennial Budget* and *Biennial Budget 2009-2011 Operating Budget Request Summary/Comparison – Special Session*. She reported that for USI, the reduction in the operating base results in a decrease of \$2,087,182 in 2009-2010 and a decrease of \$987,819 in fiscal year 2011. Six of seven funding formulas recommended by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education were used in the appropriations process. Ms. Brinker reviewed the details and results of the six funding formulas: Increase in Degrees Incentive, Time to Degree Incentive, Low Income Degrees, Two-Year Transfer Incentive, Enrollment/Successful Completed Hours Incentive, and Maintenance of Current Programs.

Ms. Brinker reported the budget provides \$15 million in bonding authorization for the Teaching Theatre – Replacement Project and funds existing debt service in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. No additional debt service is appropriated for the project.

The budget includes federal ARRA funds for repair and rehabilitation of facilities at 75 percent of the 2007-2009 formula and for payment of the 2008-2009 appropriation. USI's appropriation for the biennium is approximately \$845,000.

The line item appropriation for Historic New Harmony will decrease four percent to \$553,428 in 2009-2010 and will remain at that level in 2010-2011. ARRA funds were appropriated each year of the biennium to restore the fiscal year 2009 base.

Vice President Brinker concluded her report by noting that given the difficult fiscal situation in the State, the University of Southern Indiana is grateful to the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor for their support of higher education in the 2009-2011 biennial budget.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Mr. Dunn asked Vice President Parrent to review the authorization of financial awards. Dr. Parrent recommended approval of the following authorization.

Pursuant to Indiana Code 21-15-2-1 which provides for awarding financial aid to students from existing resources, the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees delegates to the President of the University of Southern Indiana the responsibility to approve financial aid recommendations for students within the 2009-2010 budgetary capabilities.

On a motion by Ms. MacDonell, seconded by Mr. Ziemer, the Authorization of Financial Aid Awards was approved.

B. UPDATE ON CURRENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Dunn called on Vice President Rozewski who introduced Director of Facilities Operations and Planning Steve Helfrich for a report on current construction projects. Exhibit II-A includes a summary of the cost and funding sources for each project in the report.

Mr. Helfrich reported the Business and Engineering Center project is on schedule. The structural framing is complete, the structure has been fireproofed, and most of the roofing system is installed. Approximately 60 percent of the exterior brick and limestone façade is complete and the project is progressing well toward completion in summer 2010. Mr. Helfrich reported there are approximately 80 tradespersons working on the project.

The Recreation Fitness Wellness Center Expansion Project is nearing completion. Contractors are working on the new entrance area, converting the group exercise room into the new game room, preparing for the third basketball court, and completing work in the new lounge areas. Mr. Helfrich said most of the addition was opened for use in May, including the aerobics and exercise area, weight lifting area, group exercise rooms, and new office areas.

He reported the demolition work on the University Center Expansion Project is complete and work has begun on the new bridge area and tower. He expects installation of the structural steel for this area soon. New and relocated underground utilities, including sanitary and storm sewers and domestic water piping, are being installed, as is duct work and air handling units in the building.

The general construction of the Central Heating and Cooling Plant Expansion Project is nearing completion. Electrical and mechanical work will continue through the fall. Site work will begin soon and includes new walkways, landscape materials and plants, and an enlarged parking lot at the site.

Mr. Helfrich reported the new Campus Entrance and Loop Road Project is progressing ahead of schedule. The east half of the roundabout was completed at the end of June and opened to traffic July 1, approximately one week ahead of schedule. The west half will be completed at the end of July. Following the roundabout opening, additional phases of road work will be completed from the Children's Learning Center to the University Center Service Drive and at the intersection of Bent Twig Lane and University Boulevard.

A new parking lot on the east edge of campus is under construction and will contain 226 parking spaces to replace spaces lost due to the construction of the Campus Entrance and Loop Road Project. Before the beginning of the fall semester, 39 spaces will be added to Parking Lot E and 29 to Parking Lot M.

The renovation of the second level of the original Science Center is under way and will renovate faculty office areas to provide updated offices and utilities, new finishes in the hallways and common areas, and renovation of two chemistry laboratories.

A project to expand the University Center kitchen to provide needed cooking and baking space is underway and will be complete when the fall semester begins.

Mr. Helfrich reported that projects in the design phase include improvements to the University Home to meet the accessibility requirements, roof replacement projects, bike paths connecting the USI campus to Burdette Park, improvements to the varsity soccer and baseball fields, new practice soccer and multipurpose fields at the Broadway Complex, University Boulevard repaving, and landscape work at the campus entrance.

He reported on the water tower to be built and funded by the Evansville Water Utility on the east side of campus. Construction of the tower's foundation will begin in July and the project is to be completed in June 2010.

Mr. Helfrich concluded his report by noting construction plans for a bike path to connect Burdette Park to the area of the USI baseball field are awaiting review and approval of the Indiana Department of Transportation. Vanderburgh County will fund this bike path with help from the federal government. Another project to extend the path from the baseball field area to University Boulevard will be funded by the University.

SECTION III – PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. Dunn called on Provost Coudret who noted a correction to the agenda in Item 2, *Revision to Effective Date of Early Retirement*, in which the phrase "approved early retirement" should be replaced with the phrase "approved regular retirement". She recommended approval of the following personnel actions.

On a motion by Mr. Calloway, seconded by Mr. Boots, the personnel actions outlined below were approved.

1. Emeritus Status

It is recommended that the appropriate emeritus titles for the following faculty members be conferred:

Dean Emeritus of the Pott College of Science and Engineering and Professor Emeritus of Biology Jerome R. Cain; and

Associate Professor Emerita of English Phyllis S. Toy.

2. Revision to Effective Date of Retirement

The Board of Trustees, at its meeting on May 10, 2008, approved regular retirement for Ruth H. Miller effective January 29, 2010. Ms. Miller has requested the effective date be changed to October 31, 2011

3. Revision to Emeritus Status

It is recommended that Ms. Miller retire officially with the effective date shown and that the appropriate emeritus title, as indicated, be conferred:

Director Emerita of Library Services and Senior Librarian Emerita Ruth H. Miller,
15 years at USI, effective October 31, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy MacDonell
Secretary