

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

July 7, 1988

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Committees for Finance and Long-Range Planning met in joint session in the University Center on July 7, 1988. Present were Trustees Robert Boyer, William Brooks, Jr., Percy Clark, Jr., Robert Fair, J. Patrick Leahy, Joseph O'Daniel, John Pruis, Carole Rust, and George Weathersby. Also attending were President David Rice; Vice Presidents Donald Bennett, Robert Reid, Sherrienne Standley, and Byron Wright; and Faculty Council Chairman Rebecca Englert.

Mr. O'Daniel convened the meeting and asked Dr. Reid to summarize the themes included in the operating budget. Dr. Reid referred to the handout concerning the operating budget request for 1989-91. He reported that the themes were derived from presentations and considerable discussion by the departmental fiscal agents and officers of the University at a meeting last December. Dr. Reid reviewed with the Board the three themes included in the operating budget request: 1) to improve participation and completion rates, 2) to improve the quality of undergraduate learning experience, and 3) to strengthen and expand academic initiatives related to urban and regional development. Dr. Reid then explained particular issues within each theme outlined on the handout.

Dr. Weathersby expressed concern about the large number of requests coming from the university and the resulting costs. He suggested that a structured presentation be developed in order to communicate the impact of each request. Mr. Brooks felt the Board should determine the priority order of projects in relation to the total amount of funds required for each project. Dr. Rice responded that the primary focus will be on the three main themes, and the projects are considered options within the three main themes.

Mr. Wright explained to the Board various budget figures described on the operating budget request handout. Discussion followed on various percentage increases included in the handout.

Mr. Wright pointed out items included in the revised capital budget request handout. Dr. Weathersby expressed concern about the University's first priority being a parking lot and about the timeliness of a request for another building. He also expressed an interest in further enriching computer capability.

Discussion then centered on the impact of growth upon the University.

Discussion continued on the University's approach in requesting funds. Dr. Clark emphasized that the size of a university determines its image and distinctiveness. He added that the emphasis should be on the strength and quality of programs.

It was suggested that the Board have committee meetings in August to review existing facilities and to further discuss the capital budget request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.