

Minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee - August 14, 1985

The first meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee was held Wednesday, August 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the USI University Center. Those present were: Mr. William Brooks, Jr., Ms. Carole Rust, Mr. Eric Williams, Dr. George Weathersby, Mr. Al Woll, Dr. Donald Bennett, Dr. Robert Reid, Dr. David Rice, and Mr. Byron Wright.

Dr. George Weathersby, who had been asked by Board chairman Robert Fair to be the convener of the committee, opened the meeting and called on President David Rice for introductory comments. Dr. Rice explained that the University works in a two-year planning cycle and develops a Higher Education Services Plan for submission to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. This plan then sets the stage for the biennial budget requests. President Rice also explained the evolution of currently existing curricular programs and Dr. Robert Reid, vice president for academic affairs, explained the program review process between the University and Commission and accrediting agencies.

Dr. Weathersby said the challenge for the committee was to look at the recommendations from the faculty and to establish some sense of priority so an agenda for the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board could be developed.

Several topics of discussion were listed for the committee, including the Graduate Center; degree programs in business administration, social work, physical education and wellness; the Bachelor of Occupational Studies program, Master of Science in health psychology program; curricular opportunities in New Harmony, and cooperative radio and television programs with WNIN. To the list, Dr. Rice added the Community Resource Development Institute which had been recommended by the Board of Incorporators. Dr. Weathersby reminded the committee of a program titled the Academy in the Public Service which serves a similar constituency.

During discussion, members of the committee added their hope that the University would be concerned with several areas including (1) the literacy rate, (2) cooperation with other universities in programs such as agriculture and other regional business priorities, (3) the development of curricula to aid international trade interests, and (4) the future of remediation in higher education institutions.

The committee began a study of each of the topics and programs presented, focusing on those which will come before the Board in September.

Bachelor of Occupational Studies

Dr. Reid explained the Bachelor of Occupational Studies (BOS) program, which is designed for students who have completed two-year vocational-technical programs. He presented the initial draft of the program proposal which was prepared with the assistance of a faculty committee. Basically, the BOS program will recognize 36 hours of credit for completion of a two-year technical program from Indiana Vocational Technical College. Nine hours of course work in occupational studies, 46 hours of general education courses, and a minor of at least 18 hours are major components for this new degree. The USI model would be put in practice locally and then extended statewide where need is demonstrated. Dr. Weathersby pointed out the importance of insuring that students who complete this program feel that they have done so with the same sense of accomplishment and rigor of other baccalaureate programs.

Graduate Center

A proposal was presented to the committee for the establishment of a graduate center on the campus which would consist of programs offered in cooperation with other universities. A graduate center would formalize and coordinate the graduate offerings in areas such as education, public administration, industrial management, and business administration. Need also has been demonstrated for a graduate program in health psychology.

Historic New Harmony Programs

Dr. Rice explained the history of the university's involvement with Historic New Harmony, Inc., and told the committee that there are three types of activities for New Harmony which relate to the University. Those are (1) educational conferences, (2) recreation, vacations, and bus tours, and (3) educational tours in New Harmony for school children. Dr. Weathersby suggested that the University should make both an academic plan and a business plan and treat New Harmony as an auxiliary enterprise. He spoke of the challenge in making Historic New Harmony a part of the University's long range marketing plan. Mr. Brooks cautioned that such an enterprise, if not properly managed, could be a financial drain on the University. Dr. Rice explained that USI financial resources will not be used in New Harmony; that New Harmony has its own sources of funding.

Cooperation with WNIN, Southwest Indiana Public Television, Inc.

Dr. Rice informed the committee that WNIN, Southwest Indiana Public Broadcasting, Inc. which operates public radio and television stations, has talked with University administration about the possibility of locating new facilities at USI. This would necessitate a long-term lease of land from the University pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the Governor of Indiana, and the state budget agency. Dr. Rice said such an arrangement could prove to be mutually beneficial to the station and the University because of curricular opportunities in radio, television, and possibly drama. It would also allow the university to work with the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System, Inc. (IHETS) in producing and delivering instructional programs. Dr. Rice said WNIN needs a facility which would give the station about 15,000 square feet of space. The funding for the structure would come from WNIN sources. Mr. Brooks suggested that as negotiations continue, the long-range future control of the license should be discussed and agreed upon. Dr. Rice said the Board would be asked, at the September meeting, to approve a motion allowing the University administration to negotiate terms of a contract which would be brought back to the Board for approval.

The committee agreed to continue its discussions of programs and the Higher Education Services Plan at a meeting Wednesday, September 4, at 2:30 in New Harmony.