

MINUTES

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 12, 2006

The Long-Range Planning Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, January 12, 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Present were Committee Chair Bruce H. Baker and Trustees Lauren C. Fultz and Harolyn G. Torain; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda L. M. Bennett; Vice President for Student Affairs Robert W. Parrent; Vice President for Advancement Sherrienne M. Standley; Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Extended Services M. Edward Jones; Faculty Senate Chair Peter Cashel-Cordo; and Student Government President Scott Carr.

Chair Bruce Baker convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and called on Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Bennett to introduce the program.

Provost Bennett reported on USI's "Excellence through Engagement" projects funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. through the Endowment's "Recruitment and Retention of Intellectual Capital" initiative. USI received \$2.5 million to fund the following projects over five years:

- a scholarship endowment to help recruit high performing students, including National Merit Scholars.
- support for the Honors Program with scholarships for international study;
- support for graduate students to attend professional conferences and to present their scholarship;
- summer research fellowships for new faculty in their first three years of tenure eligibility;
- enhanced sabbatical opportunities for tenured faculty with engagement projects;
- continuing professional development for department chairs and deans.

Provost Bennett introduced Dr. Ed Jones, who gave an overview of an innovative program, "Connect with Southern Indiana." Dr. Jones explained that this project is focused on retention of intellectual capital and is the result of expressed interest in the region to involve citizens in leadership and, indirectly, in economic development. Goals of the program include developing the next generation of leadership in southwestern Indiana, and involving USI faculty in outreach.

The program will focus first on eight counties – Posey, Vanderburgh, Gibson, Warrick, Spencer, Knox, Dubois, and Pike. Twenty-four individuals were accepted out of 31 applications – 18 are from the counties, four are USI faculty, and four are USI staff. The first year will be a pilot during which USI has an opportunity to assess and refine the program. The value to participants is an opportunity to meet and develop relationships with others outside their county, including business and government leaders; to have greater involvement in community problem-solving; to be exposed to a level of professional development expertise not otherwise available; and to earn undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education credit. Faculty will be designated as engagement fellows and receive a stipend. They will have an opportunity to create service learning models and involve other faculty in the program.

Lilly Endowment will fund the \$300,000 project through 2009, and USI will strive to sustain the program through other funding such as corporate support and grants. USI is also considering the establishment of a tuition structure for the future.

Trustee Torain suggested that churches, many of whom have a strong interest in improving their communities, be engaged in the program in some way. Other suggestions were made for promoting the program throughout the region.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.