

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 9, 1997

The Finance Committee of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees met on Thursday, January 9, 1997 in the Embassy Suites in downtown Indianapolis. In attendance were Trustees Bruce Baker, Percy Clark, Jr., Charles Combs, Tina Kern, and James Will, Sr. Also attending were Vice Presidents John Byrd, Robert Reid, Richard Schmidt, and Sherrienne Standley.

There being a quorum present, Mr. Combs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Richard Schmidt discussed the proposed housing rates for next fall. Currently a student pays \$960 a semester for housing. The new proposed rate increase would be 5 percent at \$1,010 a semester, a \$50 semester increase. USI tries to maintain an increase between 4-5 percent. The increase consists of 4.5 percent toward the housing rate and .5 percent for a Student Activity Fee. Mr. Schmidt compared other universities' rates and fees to USI.

For future housing units, USI is looking at apartment-style suites with full kitchens rather than a dormitory style room. John Byrd reported on a housing survey which 75 percent of the students recently completed. He commented the overall response to the new housing concepts was positive.

Mr. Schmidt asked the Committee to recommend approval of the new housing rate to the Board.

On a motion by Mrs. Kern, seconded by Mr. Will, the Committee approved the rates and will recommend those to the Board.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the proposed lease and layout of the Olympus Gym, located at the University Shopping Center two miles from USI. The lease would be for just over two years at a cost of \$42,424 annually. A full year budgeted of \$180,000 is planned for the operating expense of the facility. The facility would be available to students at a proposed cost of \$1.00 per credit hour.

It was noted that bids have been received to purchase equipment for the gym. USI has set aside \$100,000 to purchase the equipment. Negotiations are underway with various vendors.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that temporary personnel will be hired for this year with plans to convert to full-time next year. He would like to hire management from other fitness centers.

On a motion by Mr. Will, seconded by Mrs. Kern, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Board for the lease of Olympus Gym.

The last item on the agenda was the Schutte Road property. The property is 2.26 acres and meets the back of the University. It has a house, garage, and cottage with a pond, and is appraised at \$97,000. Mr. Schmidt commented that prices for the appliances will be negotiated. The house next to the property may be for sale in the future, and USI may have a chance to purchase.

If USI purchases the Schutte Road property, the seller would stay and rent the house for a year. USI would arrange for the current cottage renter to remain.

Mr. Will abstained from the voting, saying that it was his suggestion to the seller to discuss negotiations with USI.

On a motion by Dr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Kern, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Board to purchase the property.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.