

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

March 3, 1988

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Committees for Finance and Long-Range Planning met in joint session in the University Conference Center on March 3, 1988. Those present were Trustees William Brooks, Jr., Robert Fair, J. Patrick Leahy, Joseph O'Daniel, John Pruis, Carole Rust, and George Weathersby; USI President David Rice; Vice Presidents Donald Bennett, Robert Reid, Sherrienne Standley, and Byron Wright; and Faculty Council Chairperson Rebecca Englert.

Mr. O'Daniel convened the meeting at 9:58 a.m. He called on Mr. Wright to lead the discussion concerning student fees. Mr. Wright said that the University is proposing a student fee increase of approximately 5 1/2 percent over last year. Discussion on whether or not to increase fees each year followed. The student fees will be brought back for the Board's formal review and approval in May.

Dr. Rice reported that a copy of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education A Report to the Campus will be ordered and mailed to each Trustee. He said the report stresses similar concerns discussed by the Trustees and addresses these issues and problems on a national level.

Mr. O'Daniel then asked Mr. Wright to lead the discussion concerning the budget preparation. Mr. Wright reported that the University's budget reflects salary increases of 4 percent. He said that this year the University has not been able to reallocate any funds from other areas to add to the 4 percent salary increase suggested by the state. Mr. Wright also reported that the overall budget will be increased approximately 13 percent.

Mr. O'Daniel called on Mr. Wright to explain the issue of financing for the new classroom building. Mr. Wright said that if the University chooses permanent financing now, it would cost an additional \$200,000 in interest. He added that this would not be the case if the University waited to sell the bonds when the project was near completion or on July 1, 1989, when the State funding of the debt service would begin. Mr. Wright said that there is a March Board agenda item authorizing the University to begin negotiations with lenders. He added that proposals concerning the short-term financing of the classroom building would be brought to the Board for their review and approval in May.

Mr. Wright then explained the internal financing of capital equipment projects, primarily financing of a new computer, included in the March agenda. Discussion followed on the electrical loop system and a new telecommunications system.

Dr. Bennett explained to the Trustees details of the UNITE (University Information Technology Enhancement) Study compiled by a university-wide task force to determine the current and projected computing needs of the University. He reported that the committee studied the comprehensive needs

of USI and has advanced a plan which will guide the University as it begins to improve its computing ability. There was considerable discussion concerning the present computer capacity and capabilities a new system would provide in areas of administrative and academic processing. Dr. Bennett said appropriate University committees would continue to assess academic computing needs of the University.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.