

USI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOCUSSES ON DEVELOPMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Laying the groundwork for future program development at the University of Southern Indiana was the primary focus Monday of the new Board of Trustees, as they met in both regular and annual sessions at the University.

The Board devoted lengthy discussion to USI development proposals, and appeared to reach a consensus that board members will look favorably upon growth that meets a verified and marketable need.

It was noted that Indiana ranks 45th in the nation in post-high school training, while southern Indiana lags behind the state in the number of persons who complete a four-year degree program. Board members agreed this places USI in an advantageous marketing position, to reach the potential students in the area.

USI's development proposal has a goal of keeping current on needs in higher education and implementing long-range plans for post-high school education in the state. Planning is set in the context of short-term (three-year) and long-term (ten-year) considerations.

Among issues which are expected to shape the institutional plan are (1) enrollment, demographic, and economic trends; (2) shifts in demand for instruction, research, community service, and technical assistance; (3) shifts in demand for undergraduate and graduate instruction; (4) information needs of prospective students; (5) shifts in sources of external funds; (6) opportunities created by new and emerging technologies, and (7) opportunities created by new possibilities for cooperative activities with other organizations.

University of
Southern Indiana

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Board members agreed to delay action until fall on proposals for two new degrees programs -- a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in health-related psychology -- to allow more time for study and to get the Higher Education Services Plan established.

Both degree programs relate to the "wellness" concept, a trend that has resulted in the graduate program, health-related psychology, becoming one of the fastest growing areas in the field of human service training. Evansville is the health-care center for an estimated 885,000 Tri-State individuals, and is an ideal location for a program of this sort.

In his report, Dr. David L. Rice, USI president, told the Board the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has granted affiliation status for USI and formally notified the University of accreditation. He added that the University received initial North Central accreditation in 1974 and the recent action transfers accreditation granted in 1979 for a 10-year period to the new University of Southern Indiana.

Dr. Rice also reported that the Indiana State Board for Vocational-Technical Education has given USI high ratings for programs, faculty, and students, based upon on-site visits in February and March. He explained the visits were part of a five-year review and evaluation process, and quoted the Ivy Tech visiting team as being "impressed with the abundant evidence that (the University) is in an unusually strong position to succeed" with future goals.

In other action, the board:

* Approved an operating budget of \$518,777 for Historic New Harmony, Inc., a non-profit organization which is managed by USI.

* Approved insurance contracts that will lower the cost of life and accidental death insurance for employees and of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association membership for faculty members, most of which is paid by the University.

* Held its annual meeting in conjunction with the regular meeting and elected Princeton attorney Robert J. Fair as chairman; Evansville businessman Joseph E. O'Daniel, vice chairman, and hospital executive Mrs. Carole Rust of Mt. Vernon, secretary. Dr. Rice has been reappointed University president; Byron Wright was named University treasurer, and Mrs. Sherrianne Standley, assistant secretary.

* Set the next board meeting for September 5 at New Harmony. The Board plans to hold official board meetings on the first Thursday of every other month, with meetings of standing committees to be held in intervening months. The standing committees will include:

Finance -- Mr. O'Daniel; Dr. John J. Pruis, Dr. Percy Clark, Jr., and Robert M. Boyer.

Long-Range Planning -- William E. Brooks, Jr., Dr. George B. Weathersby, Mrs. Rust, and the student board member who soon will be appointed by Governor Robert D. Orr.

* Approved a resolution authorizing the University to seek proposals and approval from state agencies that will allow advance refunding of building facilities bonds.