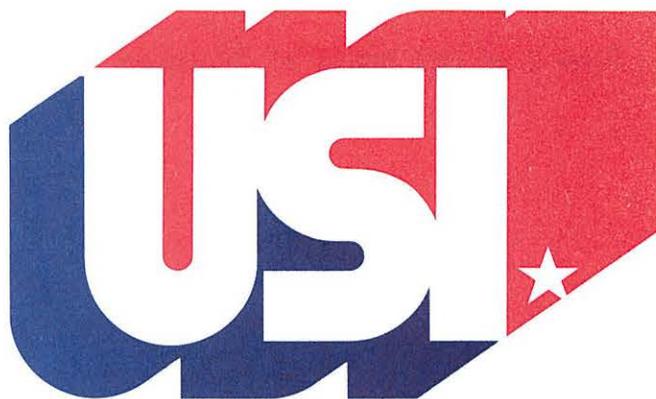


USI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RECOMMENDS \$4-MILLION
CAMPUS ENTRANCE PROPOSAL



NEWS RELEASE

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A \$4-million proposal to improve the often congested and dangerous entrance to the University of Southern Indiana campus from Indiana 62 was chosen Thursday by the USI Board of Trustees as their recommendation to the Vanderburgh County Commissioners for consideration. The County will build and fund the project with guidance from the Indiana Department of Highways.

The plan was one of four outlined by Veach Nicholson Griggs Associates, consulting engineers, as possibilities for the campus entrance. It calls for installation of an underpass on the highway and loops in northeast and southwest quarters to relieve left-turn traffic flow.

Darrell Veach explained to Board members that the chosen plan would cause the least disruption for neighbors in the area, requiring acquisition of only one home that now stands vacant.

In other business Thursday, the Board heard reports from Byron Wright, vice president for Business Affairs, on biennial funding recommendations now proposed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, and from Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, on the progress of the new nursing program.

Wright said the Commission for Higher Education has recommended a 9.42 percent increase in USI's \$15-million base budget for 1989-91 to accommodate adjustments for increased enrollment, maintenance for the new classroom building, and the new nursing program. The Commission also recommended a 4 percent increase for inflation for the first year of the biennium, 4.5 percent the second year, and issued "highest recommendation" approval for increased funding of program improvements and new programs, totaling \$1 million. The Commission also recommended a 5.5 percent student fee increase the first year, 6 percent the second year.

(MORE)

Wright said the Commission's recommendation has been submitted to the State Budget Agency, which currently is recommending that the 1989 General Assembly approve a 4 percent inflation increase each year, a 4 percent student-fee increase each year, and no increases for program improvements.

Dr. Coudret said necessary accreditations for the new nursing program are being achieved in timely fashion. The first classes were filled and began studies in August, with indications that both the courses for high school graduates and those for nurses wanting to continue study toward baccalaureate degrees will have a waiting list. With current interest and applications, the program could double the student populations established for the initial year of operation, Mrs. Coudret said, adding that she believes the demand will continue to exceed student levels established for the program. She also stated that the national shortage of nurses continues to be a problem in the health-care field.