

**USI BOARD APPROVES
BUDGET FOR
NEXT BIENNIEUM**

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The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees, at a Friday meeting, approved an operating budget request for 1991-93 to the state nearing \$50 million dollars. The 1991-92 request of \$23,912,265 reflects an increase over the previous year of more than \$3.6 million; and the 1992-93 increase is for just over \$2 million. The budget proposal is being submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the General Assembly, and the State Budget Agency.

The budget request reflects three major funding areas. The first area is a price inflation figure, which allows USI to maintain the educational programs at their current level. The increase figures are \$1,268,255 for 1991-92 and \$1,372,455 for 1992-93. The second funding area, for enrollments experienced during the two-year period--1989-90, is \$1,546,650. Additional adjustments totalling \$225,202 are targeted for academic programs in nursing and in the MBA program. The third area of the funding proposal (\$659,535 in 1990-91 and \$717,368 in 1992-93) is for enhancing the quality of existing programs, and adding new ones.

USI President David Rice explained, "each proposal is linked to the performance objectives of improving student access, the quality of the educational experience at USI, and increasing student success. As Indiana's economy continues to shift from manufacturing to a more-diversified service and information base, the University must contribute to the preparation of a skilled and competent work force. Strengthening human resources through its instructional programs and its research and service mission is essential to the well-being of southern Indiana and the entire state."

He continued by emphasizing the additional funding needs to achieve the institution's goal of strengthening faculty. "The University's highly productive faculty continue to
(more)

assume heavy teaching, advising, and service assignments while earning less than their peers at comparable institutions. We want to be able to keep the good faculty we have, and attract more."

With one of the institution's goals being access to higher education, USI intends to establish the DARE (Diagnostic, Advising, and Retention Experiences) comprehensive student support program; continue the Gateway Project for inner city students; improve access to child care services; and intensify outreach efforts. Other strategies will include expanding a minority scholarship program, increasing both black student enrollment and total FTE enrollment, strengthening campus support services for students over the age of 25, and increasing the number of articulation programs with two-year institutions.

To help meet more students' educational objectives and increase individual success rates, USI is planning new degree programs in French, occupational therapy, nursing at the Vincennes and Jasper campuses of Vincennes University, and geology, together with the master's degrees in psychology and social work.

University officials said the Board of Trustees continues to be seriously concerned about the adequacy of funding for the University of Southern Indiana. Given the projected enrollment growth and resultant shortage of academic space to accommodate the conservative estimate of students through the year 2000, when faculty salaries, state appropriations per FTE, or total resources per FTE, are compared with other Indiana institutions, USI is near or at the bottom of the list. The Board of Trustees acknowledged that funding of this budget request would be a positive step in allowing USI to provide educational access to greater numbers of southern Indiana's population.

In other business, the Board of Trustees approved early retirement for two USI faculty members, Janet V. Freeman, Professor of Education, and Benjamin P. Miller, Professor of Physics. Dr. Freeman has 22 years of service and Dr. Miller 24 years.

Two new trustees joined USI's Board at this meeting. They are Thomas F. McKenna, manager of Browning Investments in Carmel; and Harolyn Atwater Torain, vice-principal of Broad Ripple High School, Indianapolis, who also is a 1971 biology graduate of USI.