

USI BOARD RAISES

STUDENT FEES

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NEWS RELEASE

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A \$2.75 increase in undergraduate student fees was approved by the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Friday in line with the preliminary budget review recommendation to the Board that fees be raised 5.5 percent.

The Board, meeting in New Harmony to combine two days of events in conjunction with USI's 1988 Commencement on Saturday, also:

- * Approved the \$15.9-million University budget proposed for 1988-89.
- * Approved an interim financing proposal to allow a construction start in the \$7.8-million classroom building project.
- * Approved a recommendation to discontinue the dental laboratory technology program next year and suspend classes immediately in the mining engineering technology program, both due to declining enrollments.
- * Authorized USI President David L. Rice to seek state approvals for the transfer of \$25,000 appropriated by the 1983 General Assembly so that a campus entrance study may be carried out.

Board action will increase undergraduate tuition for Indiana residents to \$50.75 per credit hour for the 1988-89 academic year. Other student fees also were raised around 5 percent, putting 1988-89 nonresident undergraduate tuition at \$124 per credit hour, resident graduate tuition at \$74, and nonresident graduate tuition at \$148.

State appropriations and the student fees make up the majority of revenue for the University budget. Board members, in approving the fee structure, repeated past concerns that the tuition rate not exceed a level that would deny anyone access to a higher education.

Byron Wright, USI vice president for Business Affairs, said the increase is in line with budget projections established by the Indiana General Assembly to arrive at the operating appropriation needed for the fiscal year. Dr. Rice pointed out the increase also is related to the expanded graduate program and the continuing commitment to increase the number of full-time faculty members.

(MORE)

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More than a fourth of the \$2-million (14 percent) increase in the 1988-89 University budget projection is needed for new programs -- the School of Nursing and Health Professions, projected at around \$425,000, and the Master of Business Administration program, projected at \$185,000. The latter program was approved and funded after the 1987-88 budget was approved, thus was not included in that budget.

The only other 1988-89 fee changes approved by the Board Friday included men's basketball -- chairback seats, \$65 for a season ticket (up \$5) and \$6 for a single admission (up \$1), and child care -- \$9.50 a day for one child, \$13.50 for two (each up 50 cents), and \$16 a day for more than two (up \$1); the admission fee for baseball was eliminated.

The interim financing for the \$7.8-million classroom building project was sought to allow construction to start prior to the sale of bonds. A board-appointed committee will receive bids and award contracts. The bids are to be received May 19 and construction could begin by early June on the structure that will house 13 classrooms; lecture, seminar, and conference rooms; computer labs; and several faculty offices, plus administrative offices for Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, Placement, Counseling, and Continuing Education.

The mining engineering program, offering associate and baccalaureate degrees, was suspended effective April 1, 1988. The associate degree dental lab technology program will be discontinued at the end of the 1988-89 academic year. Factors considered in the Academic Planning Council review leading to the recommendation to suspend or discontinue included enrollment patterns, accreditation standards, future growth potential, student interest, availability of similar programs in Indiana and the Midwest, and the institutional mission.

In personnel action Friday, the Board approved the promotions of Dr. Yen-Tzu Fu from associate professor to professor of mathematics and of Dr. Howard Gabannesch from assistant professor to associate professor of sociology, and the early retirement of Charles M. Lonnberg, catalog librarian and professor of library science, effective December 31. Lonnberg will have completed 19 years with the University.