

USI BOARD APPROVES

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

NEWS RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS -- The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Friday approved the addition of a Bachelor of Social Work to USI academic offerings, effective in the fall of 1986.

The BSW program now will be submitted to the Indiana Commission on Higher Education and, if approved, will be the only one of its kind offered in southwestern Indiana. The proposed program is designed to meet the accreditation standards set by the Council of Social Work Education. It will provide students with a liberal arts background as well as 51 hours of social work courses -- a balanced program in content, application techniques, methodology, and practical experience.

The Board met in Indianapolis in conjunction with the Governor's Conference for University Trustees held there the previous day (the regular board meeting date). The conference was coordinated by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

In other business, the Board members briefly discussed the Commission for Higher Education's recent report on a

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study of geographical access to public campuses and "basic menu" degree programs, and the recommendations made to CHE to improve the availability of higher education in Indiana.

In the study, the state was divided into 22 service areas in which the Evansville area was one of six categorized as large population centers. The study showed the Evansville service area as having the least access of the six to "basic menu" programs listed in three groups in which Group One has the greatest priority.

The Evansville area was the only one of the six showing "basic menu" needs in the first two priority listings -- an associate degree in nursing in Group One, and a bachelor's degree in nursing and master's degree in business in Group Two.

The Board also learned Friday that the the refunding of two bond issues for USI academic and student activities projects completes the transfer of bonds to USI from Indiana State University. The Board was told that, by virtue of a better interest rate and the use of cash reserves, USI finance officials were able to reduce the bond total from \$9.37 million to \$7.28 million, and to reduce the maturity date by eight years on one issue and two years on the second.

The Board also authorized two budget increases -- \$100,000 in an additional Lilly Endowment grant to Historic New Harmony, Inc., that will be used for maintenance and rehabilitation projects, and \$35,000 from the USI building construction fund to pay for roof repair at the Physical Activities Center.