

**USI BOARD APPROVES \$26-MILLION
BUDGET PROPOSAL; OKAYS INSTALLATION
OF NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**



NEWS RELEASE

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A \$26-million 1989-90 budget proposal, including an operations budget increase of 21.8 percent over 1988-89, was approved Saturday by the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees.

The total includes a proposed current operations budget of \$19,404,493 -- compared to \$15,936,483 appropriated for 1988-89 -- plus designated, auxiliary, and plant funds required for campus debt service and facilities.

Byron Wright, vice president for Business Affairs, told Board members the budget reflects Indiana General Assembly appropriation increases for expanding the USI nursing program; for debt service on the bonds sold to finance the Robert D. Orr Center (the new classroom building); for operational expenses in the new building; and for additional faculty and staff to accommodate recent enrollment growth.

He said the 1989-90 expenditure plan includes a 4.7 percent inflationary increase which the Legislature funded for all state institutions to cover salaries and wages, employee benefits, supplies, equipment, and other expenses. The proposed budget would be funded through appropriations of \$13,750,103 from the State, \$4,912,367 in student fees, and \$564,330 in other income.

In conjunction with the budget action, the Board approved a student fee increase of \$2.75 per credit hour which raises resident undergraduate student fees to \$53.50 per credit hour for 1989-90. The fee schedule will increase nonresident undergraduate student fees by \$6 to \$130 per credit hour, resident graduate fees by \$4 to \$78, and nonresident graduate fees by \$8 to \$156.

In other fee action Saturday, the Board approved increases in three lab fees and the student campus service fee, but left other fees -- including all athletic events and child-care programs -- at 1988-89 levels.

(MORE)

**University of
Southern Indiana**

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The Board also approved a \$614,205 contract with KLF Business Communications Systems of Indianapolis for a campus telecommunications system and authorized the Board treasurer to proceed with financing arrangements for the system and installation, expected to total more than \$900,000. KLF was the lowest of seven bidders on a system whose components will allow state of the art telecommunications for students, administration, and faculty. Options of the system include voice messaging and voice mail; telephone registration which also would give students access to semester grades; automatic call distribution; a reporting system to show calling trends and a call accounting system for long-distance charges; and a software package to allow assessment of problems and needs as the University grows.

The Board, meeting in New Harmony, held its annual reorganization meeting and elected Evansville businessman Joseph E. O'Daniel as chairman succeeding Robert J. Fair, Princeton attorney who has led the Board since it was organized in 1985. William E. Brooks, Vincennes newspaper publisher, and Carole D. Rust of Mt. Vernon, an education administrator, were elected vice chairpersons, and Dr. Percy Clark, Jr., Indianapolis educator, was elected secretary. Wright and Sherrienne Standley, vice president for University Relations, were appointed treasurer and assistant secretary, respectively. Other Board members are Terre Haute banker Robert M. Boyer; Dr. John J. Pruis, Muncie businessman and educator; and Indianapolis businessman Dr. George B. Weathersby.

In addition, Governor Evan Bayh has appointed Brad A. Schepers, 21, of Celestine, Indiana, as the student member of the Board of Trustees. He assumed duties at the Saturday meeting, having been nominated by a student selection committee which had interviewed three applicants. Schepers is a mechanical engineering technology junior who is a co-op student employee at George Koch Sons in Evansville. He is the son of Herb and Shirley Schepers of Celestine.