

USI CLASSROOM BUILDING
GAINS ICHE APPROVAL;
ENROLLMENT CONTINUES INCREASE



NEWS RELEASE

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A 14 percent increase in summer enrollment was reported for the University of Southern Indiana, as the USI Board of Trustees also learned Thursday that plans for the \$7.8-million classroom building have earned the approval of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

USI President David L. Rice told Board members ICHE has sent a recommendation for approval of the new building, and University officials now look forward to meeting with the State Budget Committee, the final step in the approval procedure. Budget committee approval would allow for a spring 1988 construction start.

Dr. Rice said the latest enrollment figures are pertinent evidence of the need for future academic space such as that to be provided in the classroom building and are indicative of the continuing enrollment pattern at USI. Enrollment climbed 26 percent for Intersession classes which started May 12 and 12 percent for the 1st Summer session which started June 9, an overall increase of 175 students (14 percent) over 1986 summer attendance. Registration for the 2nd Summer session will be held July 13, with classes to begin July 14.

(MORE)

The Board held its annual meeting Thursday at New Harmony, re-electing Robert J. Fair chairman, Joseph E. O'Daniel vice chairman, and Mrs. Carole D. Rust secretary. Mr. Fair, William E. Brooks, Jr., and Dr. George B. Weathersby began new four-year terms on the board, having recently been reappointed by Governor Robert D. Orr.

In other action at the regular July meeting, the Board approved the recommendation for a 4.9 percent increase in resident undergraduate student fees for the 1987-88 academic year, up \$2.50 to \$48 per credit hour. The board also approved a \$13.9-million University budget for 1987-88. The State appropriation for the budget will be \$9.6 million; student fees will make up most of the balance. The funding will accommodate salary and wage increases, much of it for additional faculty and new programs such as the new MBA program being offered cooperatively with the University of Evansville.

Board members devoted considerable discussion to the need for detailed data on student fees and student aid in order that they will remain aware of the impact on needy and marginal students and be able to assure these students that assistance is available to them.

The Board also discussed the University's Higher Education Services Plan, which is due for submission to ICHE in September, and reaffirmed the USI Mission Statement after approval of minor changes. Both detail the University's role in delivering services and programs, with the HESP setting forth program plans for the next decade.