

For Immediate Release
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USI'S 1999-2000 FEE INCREASE INCLUDES FUNDING FOR NEW FITNESS, WELLNESS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has approved fee increases effective July 1, 1999, which reflect the state's recommendation of 3.5 percent plus an additional 1.5 percent, which will provide funding for a new on-campus Fitness, Wellness, and Recreational facility. The new facility was an initiative identified by student groups as a priority they were willing to fund.

Patrick West, a junior from Madison, Indiana, who has served this year as Student Government president at USI, said that students feel it is important to have a fitness facility on the campus. "The heavy use of the limited existing space indicates the student interest and warrants having a dedicated facility on campus. The new center will be in a prime location adjacent to the Physical Activities Center and the new residence halls, and will be much more convenient for student wellness and recreational activities. If students know the additional fee increase is going to be used to provide this needed facility, they will be supportive," West said.

Because of space constraints, activities at the current facility are limited to weight training and small aerobic classes. The new facility will include not only weight-training equipment, but also space for playing courts, an indoor track, showers, and lockers. Construction of the new facility will begin this fall and is expected to be complete during the fall of 2000. The trustees have approved a \$4.2 million project cost for the facility. The 1.5 percent fee increase will be used to fund the debt service and operating expenses for the new facility.

USI's new undergraduate fees were set at \$92.25 per credit hour for Indiana residents and \$226 per credit hour for non-residents. The increase to Hoosiers is \$4.50 more per credit hour than last year; out-of-state students will pay \$10.75 more per credit hour. Graduate fees will be \$137.75 per credit hour for Indiana residents and \$272.75 per credit hour for non-residents.

USI President H. Ray Hoops explained to trustees that even with the increase, USI will continue to have the lowest student fees among the state's baccalaureate-granting public higher education institutions.