

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**USI BOARD OF TRUSTEES REVIEWS
PLANS AND COST ESTIMATES FOR
HEALTH PROFESSIONS BUILDING**



NEWS RELEASE

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The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees reviewed and tentatively approved plans for a new Health Professions Building on the campus at a board meeting held Thursday at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis. The plans were presented by Odle, McGuire & Shook Corporation, the architectural firm that designed the building. Joseph E. O'Daniel, chairman of the Board, appointed a committee of Board members to look at final plans and make approvals on behalf of the Board before their next scheduled meeting in March. Bonding authorization for \$14.5 million was received from the state legislature last year.

The three-level building, expected to be completed in December, 1993, will have general classrooms, instructional laboratories, medical education research laboratories, faculty offices, and a dental clinic. The facility will house the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions and the IU School of Medicine-Evansville Center.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions, says the new building will offer special opportunities for students. "The building will be an enhancement for all programs now offered. The learning labs and simulated hospital labs, along with the new dental clinic, will offer occasions for creative teaching strategies."

Groundbreaking for the Health Professions Building, to be located north of and connected to the Science Center, is planned this summer. Board members discussed interim financing for the building, then approved financing \$9 million of the cost through Fifth Third Bank of Central Indiana.

In other business, the Board approved a new Master of Science in Education, Elementary Education, program designed to provide elementary teachers with a foundation of advanced study in teaching and learning techniques. Dr. C. Thomas Pickering, dean of the School of Education and Human Services, said, "The locally-based master's degree program for elementary teachers will enhance both elementary education and teacher education in southwestern Indiana. Teachers in the program will have a network of support as they expand teaching and learning activities for elementary students. University faculty will work directly with classroom teachers in the program. The resulting school-university partnership will expand opportunities for all teachers and children in elementary schools and for students and professors at the University, as well."

Chairman O'Daniel called the approval of the degree program an important element in the University's ability to serve southern Indiana. The program will be submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education for approval. Pending that approval, the program could be implemented in the fall semester, 1992.

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