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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USI Board of Trustees sets fall student fees;
reviews 10-year capital improvement plan

Indiana residents who are undergraduate students at the University of Southern Indiana will pay \$5 more per hour in student fees for the fall semester under a plan approved on Friday, May 5 by the USI Board of Trustees. Indiana resident graduate students will pay \$7.50 more. The new per credit-hour fee will be \$97.25 for in-state undergraduates and \$143.25 for in-state graduate students.

Fees for in-state undergraduates taking 12 semester hours of course work each semester will increase \$120 for the academic year.

USI President H. Ray Hoops said USI will continue to keep costs affordable. He said, "It is our intention to retain our position as the baccalaureate institution with the lowest fees in the state."

In other business, the board reviewed and approved the 10-year capital improvement plan. Relocation of the roadway on campus according to the master plan, classroom building construction, and library expansion are among projects for 2001-2003, the first term of the 10-year plan.

A perimeter loop road would make the campus more pedestrian friendly, eliminating vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. Dr. Hoops said the current roadway creates an extremely dangerous entrance with the boulevard through campus. Campus parking would be accessed from the loop with University Boulevard becoming a pedestrian walkway. Estimated cost of the first phase of the roadway relocation is \$4 million.

The capital improvement plan includes the request for balance of funding for the science/education classroom building at \$10.5 million; Phase I of the science/education classroom building was funded in the 1999 General Assembly. The building, which will serve the Pott School of Science and Engineering Technology, the Bower-Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services, and academic instructional support, will facilitate cooperative efforts to prepare science and math teachers. The University's top priority in its 2001-03 capital budget request is Phase II funding to complete the project.

Rice Library opened in 1971 to serve 5,000 students; the University has outgrown the facility by almost 4,000 students. Expansion would allow the library to increase services and integrate additional technology into the facility. The proposed design will include library and classroom space to allow for future expansion of the library and increase study space and number of computer workstations, and provide increased space for the University's collection. Anticipated cost is \$23 million.

Other projects in the near term are parking facilities, \$6 million; and student residence building, \$7 million. Both projects would be funded by revenue generated through student fees rather than from state appropriations.

Among proposed projects for the 2003-2005 biennium are a general classroom building at \$22.5 million, an addition to the Physical Activities Center (PAC) at \$12 million with one-half of the money to be raised through private donations, a student residence building at \$7.3 million, and a student dining facility located close to the residence hall complex, \$3 million.

The 10-year plan aids board members in orderly planning for future years.