



Approved Minutes  
July 30, 2008

Present: Becky Ball, Vicki Bierley, Brian Brown, Angie Goebel, Samoa Hempfling, Michelle Herrmann, Chris Jines, Charlene Kaufman, Mary Killian, Terry Martin, Frank Nagy, Dave O'Grady, Lyndsee Priest, Teresa Schmitt, Sheree Seib, Kim Shelton, Jacki Spainhour, Catherine Vaughan, Cynthia York, and Donna Evinger  
Guests: Sandy Davis, Mark Rozewski, Cindy Brinker

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dave O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Dave brought to our attention the recent opinion editorial that was published in the Courier and Press regarding domestic partner insurance benefits. He reassured us that Staff Council has never voted on or recommended support of this issue. The only involvement Staff Council has had with this issue was to pass on the request for this benefit to Human Resources.

The retreat began with several icebreakers led by Sandy Davis. The icebreakers included name recognition with our name and a descriptive word that started with the same letter as our name, a magic carpet ride, Chinese number game, and "Is this a Coke?" Everyone worked together to complete the magic carpet flip and then we had to "think outside the box" to figure out the other games. We all had a good time getting to know each other.

Mark Rozewski gave an update on changes taking place on campus.

-The ground breaking has taken place for the Business and Engineering Center. A fence will go up and the demolition of the North Annex will take place in the next few weeks. This project will provide hundreds of contract workers jobs over the next two years.

-The roadway project is underway and will change the flow of traffic on campus while the Business and Engineering Center is under construction.

-The steel is in the air in the fitness center. The expansion of the fitness center will provide the qualities of a professional health club to faculty, staff, and students of USI.

-The Art Gallery is finished and an open house will be held on September 2.

-The University Center expansion will go out to bid in October or November. The expansion will provide additional places to eat including Mexican and salad establishments. The new housing community center will also provide additional food options along with the convenience store. Employees can use the convenience store along with students. Pizza delivery will be available for campus delivery from the convenience store. Eventually grocery delivery will be available for campus delivery. Pete's Arena will close in the University Center and make way for a Chic-Fil-A. This is all a process of growing. Overtime, other amenities are coming.

-The county is building a paved, lighted bike trail from USI to Burdette Park through the woods.

-The Ceramic Center is a 1.1 million dollar project being built next to the art studio building. It replaces the existing center being demolished for construction of the new Business and Engineering Center. The Technology Center will become mostly Art when the new Business and Engineering Center is complete.

-The existing Facilities building is too small to support campus. A new building is being built to accommodate the campus expansion and will be accessible via a new road to Clark Lane.

-A clean, well maintained, safe campus is what most people are looking at when they decide on USI as a college for them. The look and operation has contributed to the steady growth of students over the years for USI.

-A 7-story water tower will be built by Evansville on the USI campus to maintain water availability and pressure to the campus community.

-A round-a-bout will be built next year at the entrance to campus to provide a better flow of traffic coming on and exiting campus. We are well positioned for future growth due to tuition cost and size of USI.

-There are currently 6,000 parking spaces for students and employees. The campus policy is no net loss of parking or trees.

Break for 15 minutes.

Cindy Brinker gave an overview of governmental (state and federal) relations.

-The state is beginning a new legislative session. The state relations impact on higher education is not coordinated by the state board. There are fourteen people appointed by the Governor who consider academic programs. University representatives work

with the general assembly regarding higher education and the Department of Natural Resources (New Harmony). University representatives are not lobbyists.

-State support for the university is about fifty percent down from fifty six or fifty seven percent last year. This puts a greater reliance on student fees. USI is still the most affordable state institution for students. State support is only available for academic facilities which exclude the University Center and the Physical Activities Center.

-The legislative sessions run for two years with the even year a short session from January through March and the odd year is the budget writing session. In Indiana, what is funded is never what is asked for. A handout was provided regarding the 2009- 2011 operating and capital improvement budget requests that have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

-A ten year capital improvement plan was presented last year with prioritized projects. For 2009-2011 a Teaching Theater is requested to replace the existing theater near Barker Avenue. The new theater would be adjacent to the University Center expansion and would provide 350 seats. This would be a 15 million dollar project with 8 million from the state and 7 million from USI funds raised. Repair & Rehabilitation funding of 2 million. In 07-09 USI received money for enrollment funding for \$3,500 per student (only fully funded 2 times in last 10 years). Received one and one half percent inflationary funding in 2008 and two percent in 2009. USI needs special recognition because the formulas can't take care of the needs. The state says we should look at output not just input. An emphasis is placed on degree completion. The state pays incentive for output in four years and degrees granted, degree completion, and on-time degree completion.

-A seven percent increase was received for 08-09 for quality improvement. Request funding for disparity, debt service, inflationary increase and two new quality improvements include STEM — teachers prepared for science and math teaching and How to keep students on campus — possibly hire them and give them meaningful work experience on campus.

-New Harmony-Operating budget goes to Board of Trustees in September.

-At the Federal level of 2008-roadway project included \$350,000 and \$750,000 for engineering.

Q&A - Questions were raised by council members regarding out of state students and funding and what type of funding is available to other state institutions.

With the reorganization in Governmental Relations and Advancement, Ms. Brinker is now VP for Government and University Relations. Foundation has been separated out.

Angela Torres came in and reviewed the staff council officer's duties.

**Staff Council officer elections** were held for 2008-2009 and Chris Jines was elected Chair, Michelle Herrmann was elected Vice-Chair, and Charlene Kaufman was elected Secretary.

**New Business** - Terry Martin brought a request from Faculty Senate Economic Benefits to Staff Council to show support of an increase in tuition waiver for employee spouse and dependents from 50% to 75% for fall 2008. Terry made a motion that staff council support this effort to increase tuition waiver from 50% to 75%. Motion passed.

Motion for the creation of a By-laws committee made by Terry Martin and seconded by Brian Brown. Motion passed.

#### By-Laws Committee Members

Frank Nagy, Becky Ball, Terry Martin

#### Employee Relations -1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting date: Aug 19, 2PM

Pam Moore – Chair

Jeri Broshears, Mary Killian, Becky Ball, Kim Shelton, Sheree Sieb, Angie Goebel, Jackie Spainhour, Terry Martin

#### Economic Benefits – 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting date: Aug 26, 9AM

Dave O'Grady -Chair

Cathy Vaughan, Brian Brown, Teresa Schmitt, Samoa Hempfling, Vicki Bierley, Julie Bordelon, Frank, Nagy, Cynthia York.

#### Web Committee

Sheree Seib, Rose Scruggs, Charlene Kaufman

#### Nominating Committee

Teresa Schmitt, Angie Goebel, Kim Shelton

#### EEO

Samoa Hempfling

#### Traffic Appeals

Brian Brown

Committees need to be filled in June in future.

Chris reminded everyone to call Barb Goodwin for updated "head shot" for support staff meeting poster by Monday Next meeting Tuesday, August 26, at 2PM

Meeting adjourned on motion by Jacki Spainhour, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim Shelton at 3:45 PM.