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02-03

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For Immediate Release:

EIU TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR POSSIBLE CUTBACKS

CHARLESTON – Due to shortfalls in the state's FY02 budget, Eastern Illinois University has been asked to identify a little more than \$2.3 million which could be returned to offset a statewide budget reduction.

University administrators are reviewing existing budgetary resources and are in the process of identifying sources of dollars to meet that need.

Possible sources of money would include savings on utilities expenditures; savings on accrued leave and sick leave pay-outs; and equipment, deferred maintenance and other operating funds.

Interim President Louis V. Hencken is meeting with campus leaders to discuss the situation and collect their input and suggestions regarding the budget recission.

"I am a firm believer that when great minds are thinking together, they generate the most effective solutions," Hencken said. "The input of the university community on this issue will be important to the vice presidents and me in developing the most appropriate solution."

"In all instances, the best interests of the students will be considered as we strive to maintain our longstanding tradition of academic excellence."