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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JORNS OUTLINES PLANNING PROJECT FOR THE UNIVERSITY

CHARLESTON, IL--In a memorandum to all Eastern Illinois University faculty and staff members, President David Jorns has outlined a multi-year planning project to help the university discover its future.

Jorns said, "The planning project I have outlined will be complex, time consuming and frequently frustrating. But, I am confident that it will create a dialogue which will enrich us and ultimately help us achieve the university we believe Eastern can become, based on the fine institution that already exists."

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The planning project Jorns envisions has four major components: comprehensive budget review; short-term reallocation; basic strategic planning and mission review; and articulated strategic planning. The first phase will be completed Jan. 31, 1993, and the initial round of the fourth-segment is scheduled for completion on June 1, 1995.

Jorns' underlying message in the letter is that "decisions need to be based on the recommendations of the university community." He stated, "Planning needs to become a part of the daily reality for all of us. All of us need to work toward the same central goals, as articulated in the more specific goals of our given units. This means that Eastern Illinois University will make the best use of its resources, clearly define its future and ultimately achieve that future."

The first step in the project has been the development of a comprehensive budget which includes appropriated income funds, bond revenue funds and other local funds. This is something that Eastern has never had. A basic budget, which contains all of these elements, will be presented extensively to campus governance groups for their recommendations and suggestions. This basic budget review, with a Jan. 31, 1993, completion date, will be fundamental to the planning projects which will follow, according to Jorns.

After the basic budget review has been completed and the recommendations and suggestions of the various groups satisfied, the university will begin developing a plan of action for short-term reallocation of its budget to meet financial obligations, while enhancing the quality of the institution. The completion date for this phase is Feb. 28, 1993.

Jorns anticipates that this review will result in serious changes in the administrative structure of the institution. "We simply do not have the funds to proceed without such an alteration. However, these decisions need to be based on the recommendations of the university community, through its duly constituted governance groups, led by the Council on University Planning and Budget.

"The CUPB will hold a retreat early in the spring semester. After this retreat, the CUPB will be asked to make a series of recommendations on how the university should meet its financial obligations, while at the same time maintaining and even enhancing the quality of the institution."

He explained, "The serious financial condition of the state, coupled with the PQP initiative and the ever increasing costs of higher education, necessitate an immediate examination of Eastern Illinois University's structure and expenditure patterns. This examination should lead to a recommendation on methods which will allow us to meet our financial obligations, while also enhancing the quality of the institution." Based on input from the Council on University Planning and Budget, from other campus governance groups and a plan from each of the vice presidents, a final plan of action reallocating the university's budget to meet short-term recommendations while maintaining or enhancing quality will be enacted.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Hill will be responsible for forming a committee, based on representation from throughout the institution and its governance groups, to draft a revised mission statement, which will be used to develop a strategic plan containing the university's aspirations for itself. "This document will determine the university's future," Jorns stated. Constituencies on- and off-campus will have the opportunity to provide input into the development of the mission statement and strategic plan.

The formation of an Articulated Strategic Plan is the final step in the planning process and is expected to take until June 1, 1995, to complete. It will require input from each academic department, administrative department and unit within the university, as well as those that support the university, such as the Foundation, Alumni Association and Panther Club. Each area will be asked to develop a vision statement and series of goals and objectives. These elements will be analyzed and integrated into the university's Articulated Strategic Plan, detailing the institution's expenditures and resource reallocations and all efforts which lead to the achievement of the university's vision of itself and fulfillment of its mission.

In closing, Jorns told the university community, "...I have every confidence we can succeed. Eastern is an institution with immense resources, capabilities, history and potential. All we need is a plan and the resolve to carry out that plan together."