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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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Local/Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charleston, IL - The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved Tuesday a recommended operating budget of \$41,573,600 for Eastern Illinois University for 1986-87. The recommendation includes an increase of \$3,786,600 or 10 per cent over Eastern's current operating budget of \$37,787,000.

The 86-87 budget recommendation for Eastern must still be approved by the General Assembly and the Governor.

EIU President Stan Rives described the budget recommendation for Eastern as "a good recommendation which does not meet all of our needs, but will allow us to to make progress on our highest institutional priorities."

Rives noted that he was "particularly pleased with the recommended 8 per cent salary increase recommendation for faculty and staff. That will allow us to continue to attract and retain the faculty and staff essential to quality educational programs for students."

In July of 1985 the Board of Governors, Eastern's governing board, approved a 1986-87 recommended budget of \$7,975,100 for EIU. The BOG recommendation, said Rives, "recognized that Eastern is the most cost-efficient public university in Illinois and would absolutely have allowed us to make greater progress toward equitable funding with the other public universities in the state."

Major elements of the BHE-approved budget for Eastern next year include: a 6% increase in tuition, an 8% salary increase for faculty and staff, a 5% general price increase with 8% for library materials, a 6% utility price increase, and a total of \$1,358,400 in program improvements.

The program improvement funds include \$24,100 for a new master's

Operating Budget

Add 1

degree program in biology, \$422,500 for improving the quality of undergraduate programs, \$375,000 for instructional laboratory equipment, \$232,700 for enhancing minority educational opportunity, and \$304,100 for dealing with problems of coal conversion, liability insurance, and computer-technology resource sharing.

A total of \$250,800 is recommended for removal from the base budget of the University, mostly for projected savings in using coal rather than gas in the heating plant. Eastern's coal conversion construction project is currently nearing completion, with testing of the facility expected to begin about April 1 of this year.

The IBHE also approved three major capital projects for Eastern for 1986-87. They include \$1,575,000 to remodel McAfee Gymnasium, \$6,001,400 to contract an addition to Coleman Hall for the College of Business, and \$635,100 for re-roofing various buildings, installing an elevator in the Clinical Services Building, and repair of the Buzzard Natatorium. The latter two projects are included in the Build Illinois capital program.

"We still have a long way to go," said Rives, "before we have an actual 86-87 appropriation approved by the General Assembly and the Governor. The next important step in the process will come about March 1 when Governor Thompson is expected to announce his recommendation on the amount of funds which can be made available to support Illinois education next year."