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## **Room and Board Rates Set for 2008-2009 School Year**

*Jan-18-2008*

Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees on Friday approved an increase in room and board rates for students living in EIU housing during the 2008-2009 school year.

According to Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, the rates cover increases in operations including, but not limited to, fixed costs (i.e., utilities, trash removal, fire protection, elevator maintenance and the like); student and employee wage increases; insurance; food costs; and capital projects (i.e., room renovations, fire/safety improvements and unfunded state mandates).

Students living in EIU's residence halls and Greek Court will see increases of \$206 to \$232 per semester (a 6.5 percent increase), depending on the chosen meal plan. Room and board rates will range from \$3,367 per semester for a 7 Plus Meal Option to \$3,794 for the 15 Plus Meal Option.

The four meal-plan options each permit students a specified number of dining center meals per week, plus a specified number of "dining dollars" which can be used to buy additional meals in any dining center; make purchases at Eastern's Food Court, Java B & B and Panther Pantry in the MLK Jr. Union and at the university's two residence hall convenience centers; and to provide dining center meals to guests.

Students living in University Apartments will also see an increase in the rates they pay. The plan calls for increases of between \$11 and \$13 per month, with rent ranging from \$386 to \$434 a month, depending on the type of apartment being rented (one-bedroom, efficiency or super efficiency).

Rate increases will also affect students living in University Court, a university-owned apartment complex for sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students. Rates there will range from \$2,263 to \$3,025 per semester, depending on the type of apartment being rented.

According to Mark Hudson, Eastern's director of Housing and Dining Services, approximately 40 percent of Eastern's student body resides in university housing.

Surveys among those residents indicate that "students really feel like they get a good return on their investment," Hudson said, "and we work hard to make sure they continue to feel that way."

On-going multi-year projects involve room renovations, including fresh paint and the installation of new furniture, and the addition of sprinkler systems in all residence halls. Major renovation work, planned for Summer 2008, will upgrade existing toilet and shower facilities to a semi-private standard.