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January 12, 2000

For Immediate Release:

EIU VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS SEARCH PUT ON HOLD

CHARLESTON – The appointment of a new vice president for business affairs at Eastern Illinois University has been temporarily postponed.

“Because the university must suddenly adjust to two recent retirements of key personnel in Business Affairs, prepare for the current legislative session, and maintain continuity on several fronts, I have decided not to make an appointment,” said EIU President Carol D. Surles.

A recent search culminated with on-campus interviews with four candidates in late December.

“Although the search yielded qualified applicants, no strong consensus emerged for a particular candidate,” Surles added. “Moreover, in a search of this import to the university, it is essential to identify a candidate with an exceptionally close fit to the university’s mission and needs. It is my hope that we will achieve this in a new search.”

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Surles noted that a new search will commence in late spring, beginning with the identification of potential committee members from various campus constituencies.

Jeff Cooley, acting vice president for business affairs, has "agreed to stay in place and maintain continuity and momentum in the interim," she added.

Cooley replaced Morgan Olsen who resigned, effective Sept. 30, to take his place as vice president for business and finance at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Cooley, an Eastern graduate and 16-year EIU employee, had served as assistant vice president for business affairs since December 1997. Prior to that appointment, he was Eastern's director of internal auditing.

Departmental staff members retiring in December included Marlyn Finley, director, business services/treasurer, and Dave Riddle, assistant comptroller.

In a letter, Surles thanked members of the search committee, lauding them for their professional conduct.

Gail Richard, committee chair, also commended committee members for their efforts.

"The committee worked diligently to ensure a quality process with campus representation and group deliberations. We appreciate the campus involvement and hope the future search is successful in securing a candidate consistent with Eastern's philosophy and needs," she said.