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January 19, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRAFT OF EASTERN CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UNVEILED

CHARLESTON -- The rehabilitation and expansion of Eastern Illinois University's Doudna Fine Arts Center, the rehabilitation of major academic buildings including the Physical Sciences and Life Sciences buildings, and the construction of new student housing, a Convocation Center, a new student services building and a new science building were among the proposals unveiled today at a campus master planning town meeting.

The master plan has been under development for the past five months by a university committee representing students, faculty, staff, the university administration and Eastern's Board of Trustees.

During this period, the university and consulting master planners have met with a wide variety of campus academic departments, support offices and university and community groups in more than 50 individual meetings to receive input used in the

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preparation of the current draft master plan.

The purpose of the campus master plan is to ensure that Eastern's grounds and buildings support the mission and programs of the university as well as possible.

At the town meeting, faculty, staff, students and community members got a glimpse of what Eastern's grounds and facilities could look like in the next 15 years and beyond, but were cautioned that the plan presented was strictly a "work in progress" and a "draft outline" for the future development of the campus, and is likely to undergo further revision before its formal approval by the Board of Trustees.

Jeff Conroy of Sizemore, Floyd, Conroy, the consulting firm working alongside university planners in developing a campus master plan, said months of research have gone into developing a draft plan that will help the university meet its current and future needs; enhance university life; support the university's mission, policies and standards; and guide the university's future physical development.

"We have spent considerable time meeting with campus constituencies to identify needs and concerns. We have looked at existing space, targeted growth, site conditions and space patterns. We have also met with city officials to share our ideas and discuss the ramifications of our proposals.

"Because some of our plans would require the acquisition of property near the university, ongoing communication with the city and individual property owners will be required throughout this process," Conroy said.

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"We still about have two to three months of work left to do. We can say that the campus master plan will be implemented in a 5-, a 10- and a 15-year or ultimate development phase, but it's too early to know what each phase will cost," Conroy added.

Potential projects outlined in the "draft" campus master plan include:

- Expansion of the Doudna Fine Arts Center, which may require the closure of parts of Seventh Street on campus and the demolition of Buzzard House and the Clinical Services Building. Seventh Street would become part of the university's core campus and would be landscaped and closed to all but pedestrians and service vehicles. New locations would be found for Eastern's Counseling Center and student Health Service.
- The construction of a new science building to house the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Communication Disorders, and Psychology, as well as the College of Sciences Dean's Office. The current Physical Sciences Building would be rehabilitated to house the Departments of Geology/Geography and Physics.
- Under the draft master plan, the Department of Mathematics would be relocated from its current location in the Livingston C. Lord Administration Building, "Old Main," to a renovated Life Sciences Building.
- Improving pedestrian access and safety throughout the campus is a guiding principle of the draft master plan. Existing conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles would be reduced or eliminated with the construction of several new parking lots and the closure of some internal campus streets. In addition, campus "green space" would be improved and expanded to further accentuate the Charleston campus as an extraordinarily beautiful and welcoming college campus.
- Potential locations for new and enhanced student housing on the east side of campus are identified in the draft plan, including suite housing south of the Tarble Arts Center and apartments between Ninth and Tenth streets. In addition, the draft plan includes a potential location for another

building in Greek Court to address the demand for Greek housing.

- The Master Planning Committee proposes moving the Textbook Rental Service from its existing location in Pemberton Hall to a new location north of Edgar Drive where a new self-service facility could be constructed economically.
- Green spaces on campus would be further opened and enhanced by the removal of the existing Student Services Building and construction of a new student services facility that would collocate many of the functions which students presently find spread throughout the campus.
- Additional space for athletics and recreation have been proposed, including a Convocation Center west of Fourth Street on Lincoln Avenue and an addition to the Lantz Building. This area would provide for improved parking and host a proposed life-long learning center and a campus visitor's center. This area also could include Alumni Association and EIU Foundation facilities.
- On the east side of campus along 18th Street, several new recreational facilities are proposed on land currently owned by the university east of Greek Court.
- The draft master plan recognizes the city of Charleston's desire for another east-west connector road south of Lincoln Avenue and proposes a route for the city to develop in the future. This route includes the abandonment of some university property in support of the city's efforts.

Finally, the draft master plan proposes the relocation of some existing parking lots to the exterior of the campus in order to improve safety and to enhance campus beauty and utility. At the same time, the draft master plan also contemplates the addition of more parking spaces, resulting in a net addition of 1,400 parking spaces over the time period covered by the plan.