

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

---

Faculty Senate Resolutions

Faculty Senate

---

Spring 2016

### Concerning the Budget Impasse

Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: [https://thekeep.eiu.edu/fac\\_senate\\_resolutions](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/fac_senate_resolutions)

---

From: The Faculty Senate of Eastern Illinois University  
To: IL State Senator Dale Righter (55<sup>th</sup> District) and IL State Representative Reggie Phillips (110<sup>th</sup> District)

The Faculty Senate at Eastern Illinois University is frustrated and astonished by the budgetary situation in Springfield that has left us without any appropriated funds from the State of Illinois for this fiscal year. Eastern Illinois University has now been without funds from the State for over seven months. We, as the elected representatives of the faculty of EIU, affirm the following to be true:

- The failure of Governor Rauner and our General Assembly to agree on a budget has forced EIU to plan the layoffs of an additional 198 service employees beginning in March 2016 if the budget impasse continues.
- This failure has forced EIU to increase furloughs to administrators and professionals.
- The faculty of EIU has already voluntarily agreed to forego contractual salary increases and to consider the necessity of furloughs in order to meet these budgetary trials.
- We are dedicated to educating the citizens of Illinois. Almost all of our student population (94%) is from Illinois. The proportion of our expenses devoted to instruction (40.3%) is the third best in Illinois.
- Our operating expenditures are the second lowest in the State of Illinois at \$22,805 per FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) student, compared to the state average of \$40,519.
- Our compensation to administration is \$872 per FTE student, the lowest in the State and *less than half* the Illinois average of \$2,025 per student.
- Because the economic impact of EIU accounts for 31.5% of the property tax and 37.5% of the retail sales in Charleston, a continued budgetary stalemate in Springfield will have severe short- and long-term economic consequences for our region and the State of Illinois.
- Many of our highly skilled and talented colleagues, in all sectors of employment (service, administrative, and instructional) have already left the State, and many more will be forced to find secure employment *outside the tax base* of Illinois.
- The continuing budget impasse, if not soon resolved, risks endangering the health of an institution which has been providing first-rate educational opportunities to Illinois students for well over a century, and which enjoys strong alumni support.

All these factors being true, we call on our democratically elected representatives, Rep. Reggie Phillips and State Senator Dale Righter, to support our district by demanding from both our State legislature and governor that EIU's FY2016 appropriation be allocated at a rate similar to

FY2015. A cut greater than 6.5% would constitute a severe threat to the health of our institution and our region.

In the meantime, the Illinois General Assembly has introduced SB2269, a bill which would appropriate funds for EIU and other Illinois institutions of higher education. We call on our state representatives to publicly pledge that they will approve this bill and furthermore vote to override if the governor chooses to veto this bill. In the meantime, in order to alleviate some of the deleterious effects of the extended budgetary stalemate, we urge Governor Rauner to sign SB 2043 which has already passed the Illinois General Assembly.