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00-07

January 19, 2000

For Immediate Release:

BOT TO CONSIDER LABOR AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME LOCAL 981

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees is expected to give the final needed stamp of approval to a labor agreement with AFSCME Local 981, representing approximately 195 building/food service employees, when its meets for its quarterly meeting next week.

The meeting, set to begin at 8:30 a.m., will take place in the 1895 Room of the University Union – not the University Ballroom as is the custom. Organizers said four of the BOT's eight members will come to campus; the remaining four will participate via telephone conference call hookup.

The AFSCME agreement was reached Dec. 13, 1999, and was ratified by the union on Jan. 11, 2000. Under the terms of the agreement, effective for the period Sept. 15, 1999, through Sept. 14, 2002, bargaining unit employees would receive a 3 percent wage increase the first year of the agreement, and the percentage increase appropriated for salaries for EIU in the second and

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third years of the agreement.

The BOT also was expected to consider the tentative agreement reached Dec. 3, 1999, with the approximately 600 employees of the University Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100. Two-thirds of those employees voted last week to accept the three-year contract agreement, which, if approved by the BOT, would raise salaries by about 6.1 percent on an annual basis.

UPI Local 4100 represents tenured and tenure-track employees (Unit A), as well as annually contracted teaching faculty and academic support professionals.

Final approval of that contract has been postponed, pending the completion of the paperwork to be presented to the BOT.

Board members also will consider a change in contract for expansion design services for Eastern's Clinical Services building. An agreement was approved Oct. 19, 1998, for a cost of \$372,000, with A. Epstein & Sons of Chicago, but the scope of the work and estimated cost of construction has changed, increasing from \$2.5 to \$3.3 million in order to meet the needs of Health and Career services and to comply with Eastern's Campus Master Plan. Approval of this change order, in the amount of \$104,000, is necessary to cover the cost of additional design services.

Informational items presented to the board include a round-up of Eastern's financial aid programs and an update on the FY 2001 Illinois Board of Higher Education budget recommendations.

In FY 1999, 73.9 percent of Eastern's student body received some form of financial assistance – loans, scholarships, grants, tuition waivers and/or employment – from various federal, state and university programs. Financial aid in FY 1999 totaled \$43,489,640 at Eastern; 62 percent came from federal sources, 16.7 percent from the state, 17.6 percent from the university and 3.7 percent from other sources.

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In its FY2001 budget recommendations, the IBHE proposed a \$4,090,100 (5.6 percent) increase for Eastern's general and income funds operating budget. This overall increase recommendation incorporates a 6.9 percent increase in general funds (state tax) and a 3.2 percent increase in income fund (tuition and fee) monies. Comparatively, Eastern's recommended general funds increase of 6.9 percent is the second highest of all public universities.

In early February, the governor will present his FY 2001 budget recommendations for Eastern and the General Assembly will finalize the budget appropriation by the end of June.

In FY 2000, Eastern requested a \$6,609,900 or 9.6 percent general and income funds increase, the IBHE recommended a \$5,235,600 or 7.6 percent increase, the Governor recommended a \$4,568,100 or 6.7 percent increase, and the General Assembly appropriated a \$4,525,600 or 6.6 percent increase.

In addition to recommendations for Eastern's operating budget, the IBHE also make capital budget recommendations. For FY 2001, the IBHE has recommended that Eastern receive \$47,435,000 for regular capital and \$1,580,000 for capital renewal projects. A recommendation was made for \$4 million for Booth Library equipment, \$500,000 less than originally requested. The Fine Arts building project was recommended for the full \$43,435,000 requested.