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January 21, 1997

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN REFLECTS ON FIRST YEAR UNDER ILLINOIS'  
NEW SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

CHARLESTON -- Retired Charleston physician Mack W. Hollowell knows the public universities in the state will have to work hard this spring to attract the attention of Illinois lawmakers already focused on the hot issue of adequately funding elementary and secondary schools.

Hollowell, a long-time Charleston resident and the first chairman of the Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees, said he and his fellow trustees are ready for the challenge in 1997 after a "building" year that saw the establishment of new working relationships in the revamped higher education system.

"It has been a very interesting year," said Hollowell. "We've organized the board and learned how to operate under this new system of governance. I feel we have been a very progressive board and have helped to solve some of the problems facing the university."

Hollowell was the only one of the seven board members appointed to Eastern's board by Governor Edgar who had served on the university's governing

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HOLLOWELL

board prior to the reorganization of Illinois public higher education in 1995. The new board began its term a year ago this month.

At that time, Hollowell viewed the adequate funding of Eastern as a top priority of the new board. He still does and is delighted that Eastern was recommended for the highest percentage budget increase of all the public universities for next year. As part of that proposed budget, Eastern would receive approximately \$350,000 for deferred maintenance, another priority of Hollowell's.

Hollowell points to Eastern's continued strong academic reputation and record enrollments as evidence of a smooth transition to a new board. Among board accomplishments this past year, he cites the signing of a three-year contract with Eastern's faculty union that provides pay increases designed to bring EIU salaries in line with those at peer institutions.

Under the new board, Eastern also raised admission standards and supported the passage of legislation that allows universities to retain their tuition revenues in local accounts. The board approved a \$3.8 million energy conservation overhaul that will save at least \$380,000 per year in utility costs, approved purchasing a new telecommunications system that lowered student long-distance charges and upgraded outdated equipment, and supported exploration of a campus-based child care center.

He said one of the board's most satisfying efforts was working with Eastern students to finance 11 campus improvement projects, including a food court,

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HOLLOWELL

Internet access in the dorms and 24-hour computer labs. Students voted to repay any debt taken on by the board for the projects through student fee increases.

Hollowell has resided in Charleston for 50 years and served as president of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. In 1995, Dr. Hollowell was named as a member of the "Centennial 100," a group of 100 individuals who had a significant impact on Eastern during its first century.