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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 1981

LAM

CHARLESTON, IL -- Eastern Illinois University will not accept new freshman student applications for the Fall Semester 1981 after the close of business hours today, it was announced by John Beacon, Director of Admissions.

Beacon said the cutoff was made necessary because an increased number of applications has already brought the University to its enrollment capacity, approximately 9,800 students.

"As we reach a point of maximum utilization of our resources and facilities, we must take steps to ensure that we maintain the quality of our academic programs," said Beacon.

President Daniel E. Marvin, Jr., said the cutoff is in line with a request from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to reduce Eastern's level of enrollment over the next few years.

Beacon said students making application after the cutoff date may request to be placed on a waiting list.

"Should conditions change, and should we again be accepting a limited number of applicants for the Fall Semester, we will choose from this stand-by file on a priority-by-date basis," said Beacon.

The cutoff date will not affect recipients of designated institutional awards and scholarships.

Eastern's enrollment reached an all-time high of 9,989 students last fall

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and set a new record of 9,413 for the Spring Semester.

Beacon said the Office of Admissions at Eastern began to advise high school counselors throughout the state as early as last September about a possible cutoff.

"We notified the counselors again in early February so that they could alert students who might be subject to this action," he said.

The IBHE recommended a year ago that Eastern and four other "under-funded" state universities reduce their enrollments which were determined to be too high in relation to the amount of state funding provided.

Marvin said he is concerned about restricting student access to a public university, particularly in those instances in which the students live in the immediate service region; but he said he accepts the necessity of planning and managing enrollments.

"It is clear that while our enrollments have increased every year since 1974, we have been unable to secure the funding necessary to maintain the smaller classes and personalized instruction which have historically contributed to the excellence of the programs at Eastern. A restriction on student enrollment may enable the University to improve upon its quality in a significant way," said Marvin.