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96-78

March 7, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOARD TO CONSIDER ENERGY CONSERVATION, LEGAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees will meet next week to consider approving payments on a \$4.3 million energy conservation project that will produce significant cost savings for the university and pay for itself over a 10-year period.

The board meets on Monday, March 11, in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Trustees will be asked to approve payments required under the project over the life of the contract with Energy Masters Corporation of Mundelein.

Eastern is receiving \$4,315,000 in energy-saving capital improvements, maintenance, monitoring and training without any increase in its operating budget.

The entire project was conceived and coordinated by Eastern and the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources and involved the Governor's Office, the Capital Development Board and Central Management Services.

Measures ranging from lighting retrofits to major mechanical equipment were

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identified and implemented. With the project in the final stages of completion, resulting guaranteed savings range from \$541,534 to \$559,034 annually, sufficient to cover annual program costs and debt service of the project.

In other business, the board will consider retaining legal services from the Urbana firm of Heyl, Royster, Voelker and Allen on an hourly basis. The firm would be used in the event the Board of Trustees may require legal advice and services not routinely available through Eastern's in-house counsel. The firm would receive an hourly rate of \$95 under the arrangement.

The trustees will also discuss the governor's fiscal year 1997 budget recommendations for higher education in general and Eastern specifically. This is the third year that the governor has forwarded higher education budgets to the General Assembly as recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. For Eastern, that means a \$3.2 million, or 5.6 percent, increase in next year's budget. If approved by the General Assembly, Eastern's total appropriated funds budget for FY 1997 would amount to \$61,227,800.

"We are extremely pleased at the priority the governor has given to education in general and public higher education specifically. We strongly support the governor's budget and are hopeful the General Assembly will approve the proposal without changes," said Eastern President David Jorns.

Purchase items before the board include a \$107,424 contract to renovate two existing elevators in Lawson Hall. The elevators are in need of new finishes and replacement of existing generator sets and controls.

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BOARD

Following business items on the agenda, the board will hear a presentation on the financial aid process at Eastern and how students are assisted by Eastern's programs and services.