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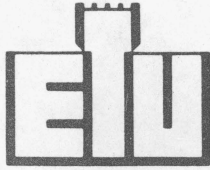
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January 3, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"IBHE RECOMMENDS 4.5% INCREASE FOR EIU"

CHARLESTON--An operating budget increase of \$2,369,300 or 4.5 percent is being recommended by the IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) for Eastern Illinois University for 1992-93. If approved by the Board at its January 7 meeting in Chicago, the recommendation to increase Eastern's appropriation from \$52,254,500 this year to \$54,623,800 next year then goes to the General Assembly for consideration.

The IBHE is also recommending a \$14,416,700 capital budget for Eastern next year, including \$11,266,100 major rehabilitation of the Buzzard Building.

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"We are pleased with both the operating and capital recommendations by IBHE," said Eastern President Stan Rives. "The 4.5 percent increase recommended for EIU compares with an average 4.1 percent increase for all of the public universities. I also believe that the \$11 million to rehabilitate Buzzard will finally be appropriated next year."

The basic elements of the IBHE operating budget recommendations for EIU and the other public universities include a 4.5 percent salary increase for faculty and staff and a 4 percent tuition increase. A total of \$37.1 million of Eastern's total \$54.6 million budget would come from general (tax dollar) funds, with the remaining \$17.5 million coming from income (basically tuition) funds.

"We have worked with the IBHE staff," said Rives, "to increase our general and reduce our income fund proportions of the total budget consistent with our on-campus enrollment target of 10,200 students next Fall compared to 10,450 this year. This modest downsizing is necessary to enable the University to implement the new integrated core general education program approved by the Council on Academic Affairs. The BHE staff has been totally supportive of this approach."

Of the \$11.2 million for Buzzard rehabilitation, nearly \$9.7 million would be spent to remodel the existing facility including installation of new HVAC (heating-ventilation-air conditioning) systems, new windows and additional lighting, removal of asbestos, roof replacement, and upgrading of building entrances. Another nearly \$1.6 million would provide a 14,200 square foot addition to the building for offices and additional space for radio-TV and student newspaper laboratories.

Other capital projects recommended include: \$2,380,500 for upgrading the energy management system of the University; \$250,000 to provide an elevator for improved access for persons with disabilities in Klehm Hall; \$160,100 to replace single-glazing with thermopane windows in the Fine Arts building; and \$360,000 to remodel the HVAC system in the Fine Arts building.

"These IBHE operating and capital budget recommendations for EIU still have a long way to go," said President Rives. "Before we see the actual appropriation, both the General Assembly and the Governor must approve them, and we won't know the result of that until early July. Approval at the level recommended by the IBHE, which is a very conservative recommendation, will probably require better economic conditions than now exist."

"Meanwhile," said Rives, "we are looking at the possibility of a call-back of funds this year by the State, by perhaps as much as 3 percent of our general fund appropriation. We are also beginning the IBHE-mandated internal reallocation or PQP (priorities-quality-productivity) process for the 1992-93 budget. Our highest priorities for the internal reallocation process are providing funds for faculty staff salary increases and funds for implementation of the integrated core general education program."