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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

March 5, 1985

Local, Area, Metro

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Illinois Board of Higher Education has approved a recommended operating budget of \$37,884,000 for Eastern Illinois University for 1985-86.

If it is approved by the General Assembly and Governor Thompson, Eastern would receive an increase of \$3,370,400 over its current 1984-85 operating budget of \$34,513,600.

"The nearly 10 percent increase in Eastern's operating budget for next year," said EIU President Stan Rives, "is the highest percentage increase for a single institution being recommended for the public universities.

"That is where we should be because Eastern remains the most cost-effective public university in Illinois and--as a result--is underfunded by more than \$3.2 million. The IBHE has recognized this situation in making its 1985-86 budget recommendations and we are pleased that they have done so."

The recommended increases include \$2,041,400 for an average eight percent faculty-staff increase, \$370,900 for price increases, \$80,500 for maintaining additional space provided in a Physical Plant building addition constructed this year and for the purchase of fuel for the coal conversion project, and \$930,100 in program improvement funds.

The University's base budget is reduced by \$34,600 as a result of being above the two percent undergraduate tuition waiver level established by the Board of Higher Education.

Among the items included in the \$930,100 for program improvements are \$300,000 for purchase of instructional laboratory equipment, \$275,000 for additional faculty positions in high student demand programs, \$207,100

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for improving the quality of undergraduate programs, \$108,000 for student assistance and teacher education programs, and \$40,000 for the purchase of computer software.

The Board of Higher Education also approved \$635,100 for repair and renovation work at Eastern, which includes \$572,400 for fire prevention work and \$62,700 for an energy conservation project. Also approved was a \$1,363,600 capital project to rehabilitate McAfee Gymnasium, including a complete rehabilitation of the mechanical and electrical systems in the building.

"We are generally quite pleased with this budget recommendation, which will allow us to address some unmet needs, particularly in the areas of faculty-staff salary increases and updating instructional laboratory equipment," said Rives.

These budget recommendations for Eastern now go to the General Assembly, with the House and Senate holding hearings over the next two months. Legislative action is expected to be completed in June.