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01/28/1992 - Eastern Protects Academics and Personnel in Budget Rollback

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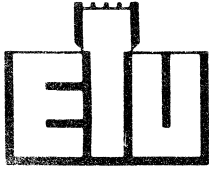
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January 28, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN PROTECTS ACADEMICS AND PERSONNEL IN BUDGET "ROLLBACK"

CHARLESTON, IL--Although the State's fiscal problems have forced Eastern Illinois University to cut \$1,047,100 from its current budget, the University has managed to protect its academic programs and personnel during the reduction process.

"The State-mandated 3 percent reduction is being made without any reference to layoffs and with minimal impact on the instructional process," University President Stan Rives told Eastern's Council on University Planning and Budget, Monday. "Protecting these areas was a high priority during the entire process."

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EASTERN PROTECTS ACADEMICS

Rives explained that between the 3 percent "Rollback" and the recently approved salary increases for faculty and staff, Eastern has actually had to reallocate nearly 6 percent of its budget.

To identify areas that would have the least harmful impact on the University, Rives said Eastern used the same reduction process that was used last year and in 1982, when other cuts were mandated.

As then, the first area to feel the budget ax was the University's reserve fund (monies set aside for equipment purchases and emergencies).

Next, all fixed-cost budgets such as utilities, contingency support, local projects, and even the University Catalog account were reviewed and a total of \$350,500 in cuts was identified.

Then, each of the University's four vice presidents' and the president's area budgets were scrutinized and another \$696,600 identified for elimination.

More than \$334,400 came from the area of Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Hill, where Booth Library took the largest reduction of \$150,985. The Summer School Program lost 128,600, but direct effects on the instructional program will be relatively minor in the short term. Cuts in the Summer School will not eliminate "standard" courses, but will come largely from canceling 12 summer theme workshops and six distinguished professor positions.

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EASTERN PROTECTS ACADEMICS

Charles Colbert, Vice President for Business Affairs, will see a \$236,800 reduction in his area, which will mean lower thermostat settings in most buildings, a delay in purchasing a much-needed electric generator, reduced professional travel, a slowdown in planned Local Area Network computer installations, depletion of the emergency fund reserve, and elimination of one of two planned hazardous waste pickups scheduled for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Vice President for Student Affairs Glenn Williams will return \$55,700 by canceling the purchase of a campus police car, reducing funds for student employment, curtailing or canceling educational programs in the residence halls, eliminating the Student Activities Information Desk, and other activities.

Some \$20,900 will come from the area of Steve Falk, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Major impacts here will be reduced support for Alumni Services and Development, including cancellation of THE EASTERN ALUMNUS publication. Falk will also be forced to cancel planned departmental recruiting brochures and delay publication of a variety of materials for the Admissions Office.

In addition, the Office of the President will give up \$48,800, which will mean a reduction in monetary assistance in the Office of Affirmative Action and in the support of faculty/staff development programs. It will also mean a reduction in civil service temporary/extra funds for emergency replacement and cancellation of the annual Affirmative Action banquet.

ADD 3/3/3/3

EASTERN PROTECTS ACADEMICS

Although personnel layoffs were avoided during this reduction process, Rives cautioned that it would be very difficult to absorb any further reductions without both layoffs and serious impact on the instructional program.

In fact, according to Rives, the University's success in making the current million dollar reduction, while protecting instructional programs and personnel, was only possible through the dedication of Eastern's "fiscal agents" who actually identified the "least harmful" areas for reduction.

The Council on University Planning and Budget reviewed the planned reductions Monday and had no recommendations for changing the process or reductions.

Rives said the reductions have been processed and the appropriate budgets reduced. As a result, the "freeze" imposed last week on University spending has been lifted and normal business office operations resumed.