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## 03/07/1988 - Fiscal Health

University Marketing and Communications

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
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# news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FISCAL HEALTH IS TOPIC AT BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CHARLESTON, IL.--Director of the Illinois Bureau of the Budget Robert Mandeville was among a select group of business and community leaders who spoke at the spring meeting of the Eastern Illinois University Lumpkin College of Business Dean's Business Advisory Board Saturday.

Mandeville, an advisory board member, chartered the state's income tax rates showing that the tax rate is down, while demand for services is up. Mandeville said, "You can't have it both ways. You can't take your revenues away and still provide quality programs."

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Chancellor of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities Thomas Layzell underscored the need for a tax increase saying that Illinois will lose its good teachers to other states if something does not happen soon.

EIU President Stan Rives showed data indicating that Illinois ranks 44th out of 50 states in per capita funding for higher education. Rives said EIU would have to down size by 1,000 students unless funding is increased.

Rex Cooley, Controller, Senior Vice-President for Finance and Administration and board of directors member at Marathon Oil Company, described how his company restructured itself and merged with U.S. Steel during the difficult times for petroleum companies.

EIU alumnus Roger Roberson, Chairman of the Roberson Corporation, a large trucking firm in Farmer City, outlined his company's success. "When other truckers reacted to deregulation by contracting, we decided to expand. It worked." Roberson Corp. expects revenues of \$80-85 million this year and is still expanding.

President of the Illinois Agricultural Association John White, Jr., informed the group that the U.S. is experiencing a record net farm income at this time, contrary to popular beliefs. "Farming must be seen as a business rather than a way of life," White said, "that is why we support EIU's Business programs. Agriculture needs your graduates."

Officers elected for 1988-89 are EIU alumnus Eli Sidwell of Eli Sidwell & Associates, Charleston, Chairperson; J.W. Oglesby of Reasor Corp., Charleston, Chairperson Elect; and Sara Preston, President of Boatmen's National Bank of Charleston, Secretary/Treasurer.

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BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Dean of the Lumpkin College of Business Theodore Ivarie said the board is in its third year and has grown to 31 members who volunteer their expertise in business in furthering the goals of the College.