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February 11, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TABER PLANS RETIREMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--After more than 30 years at Eastern Illinois University, Sam Taber, the University's dean of student academic services, will begin administrative leave July 1 and retire Dec. 31.

Taber came to Eastern in 1960 as an admissions examiner in the records office and advanced into administration, serving as assistant dean of registration and academic advisement and associate dean of student academic services before becoming dean in 1970.

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Vice President for Student Affairs Glenn Williams said of Taber's retirement, "It is with deep regret that I accepted Dr. Taber's announcement that he would be leaving the campus to enter administrative leave and then retirement.

"I shall miss him and his good counsel as we deal with the demands of his office. I wish him well in his future endeavors."

Prior to coming to Eastern, Taber was associated with Illinois Consolidated Telephone, Co., Mattoon. He also taught for one year at Nokomis High School.

He received his bachelor's degree in education from Eastern and master's and doctorate from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

As dean of student academic services, he oversees the areas of admissions, high school relations, community college relations, records, registration and textbook rental service.

Taber said, "My job has a lot of variety and that's what has kept me interested in it all these years." He said that one day he may be helping a student interpret the University's regulations on class load, grade appeals or exam changes, and the next be evaluating what impact Eastern's new general education curriculum will have on the student affairs area.

He said recruiting students to Eastern has been easy, citing excellence in teaching and affordability as several reasons students select Eastern. "My staff and I regularly recruit at high schools and community colleges, even when enrollment is up."

"Managing enrollment has been a big part of my job," he said, adding that there has been steady growth in enrollment during his tenure. The make-up of Eastern's student body has changed, Taber noted, with more transfer students and fewer freshmen enrolled today than in previous years.

Taber has observed the introduction of touch-tone registration, a state-of-the-art computerized registration system that allows students to register for classes by using a touch-tone telephone, which he says has been a considerable improvement over manually processing registration information.

While Taber said he will miss his association with colleagues and students, he is looking forward to doing volunteer work in the community. He has particular interest in Project Pal (Partners in Adult Literacy), a program administered by Lake Land College that teaches individuals how to read, and Hospice of Lincolnland, a program for individuals with a limited life expectancy.