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March 20, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU RECEIVES GOOD NEWS FROM OCR

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University, after recent discussions with representatives of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has determined that it will not proceed with plans to eliminate its men's wrestling and swimming teams. In addition, the university announced that it would add a women's golf team beginning with the 1996-97 academic year.

Eastern President David Jorns wrote the OCR in December asking them to consider reopening negotiations on a gender equity compliance review that found Eastern was not in compliance with Title IX.

"I am pleased that the OCR has responded favorably to our request," said Jorns. "We remain strongly committed to meeting the needs and abilities of female athletes. The OCR has indicated a willingness to work with us on providing time needed to address any unmet athletic interests of females by adding new sports if a careful assessment proves that additions are appropriate.

"Furthermore, any program additions would be dictated not by the OCR but

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by the results of our assessment of interests and abilities. We feel this is a more appropriate way in which to address the equity issue on our campus. We will assess any unmet needs, plan our programming carefully and reallocate resources if required."

Bob McBee, Eastern's athletic director, said that he would be working closely with the coaches and student athletes to ensure that the men's swimming and wrestling teams remain viable and competitive. "I am very happy to share this news with our coaches and athletes," said McBee. "I also will be turning my attention right away to forming the women's golf team. This will be a good addition to Eastern's athletic program."

The university is unable to comment further about the agreement with the OCR until after it has completed its discussions with the Chicago OCR office.