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## 06/18/2003 - EIU Trustees to Consider Hikes in Tuition, Student Fees, and Housing Costs

University Marketing and Communications

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June 18, 2003

For Immediate Release:

EIU TRUSTEES TO CONSIDER HIKES IN TUITION, STUDENT FEES AND HOUSING COSTS

CHARLESTON – Tuition, student fees and housing costs for the 2003-2004 school year top the agenda for Eastern Illinois University's forthcoming Board of Trustees meeting, set to take place Monday, June 23.

The actual meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the University Ballroom, located in the University Union. However, a board orientation to the university's FY04 and FY05 budgets will begin at 8 a.m. in the 1895 Room of the Union. Both gatherings are open to the public.

If approved as presented, tuition for all EIU students would increase by 9.5 percent. Illinois undergraduates would pay \$118.75 per semester hour, an increase of \$10.30, while Illinois graduate students would pay \$125 per semester hour, an increase of \$10.80.

(Out-of-state tuition costs for undergraduates and graduate students would cost \$356.25 and \$375, respectively, per semester hour.)

Recommended student fees would see students enrolled with 12 or more semester hours paying a full-time rate of \$521.05 per semester. This does not include a \$69.20 health and accident insurance fee (assessed for all students taking nine or more hours), nor a textbook rental fee equaling \$7.95 per enrolled semester hour. Graduate students also would pay a \$2 (\$1 increase) graduate student fee.

Members of Eastern's Student Senate and Student Tuition & Fee Review Committee recommended fee increases totaling \$521.05 as follows: activity fee, \$1.70 (\$33.50 to \$35.20); athletic fee, \$2.45 (\$61.05 to \$63.50); health service & pharmacy fee, \$3.55 (\$64 to \$67.55); recreation center fee, \$3.80 (\$63 to \$66.80); bond revenue fee, \$4.65 (\$116.25 to \$120.90); computer technology fee, \$49.60 (\$40 to \$89.60); and grant-in-aid fee, \$3.85 (\$73.65 to \$77.50).

The heftiest of these increases – the computer technology fee – would expand the existing fee to include two needed areas of technology funding. The biggest part of the increase (\$48) would be geared toward the university's computer infrastructure and to address needed network upgrades. The remainder (\$1.60) would be added on to the existing \$40 fee, used to provide computer labs accessible to all students and to equip classrooms and laboratories with instructional technology systems.

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In addition to tuition and fee hikes, trustees also will consider an increase in housing rates for the 2003-2004 school year. If approved, room and board rates for students living in Eastern's residence halls and Greek Court will increase between \$119 and \$134 per semester (a 5.25 percent increase), depending upon the meal plan chosen. The proposed room and board rates will range from \$2,384 per semester for the 5 Plus meal option to \$2,687 per semester for the 15 Plus meal option.

The four meal plan options each permit students a specified number of dining center meals per week, plus a specified number of "dining dollars" which can be used to buy extra meals in any dining center, make purchases at Eastern's Food Court in the University Union or at the university's two residence hall convenience centers, or provide dining center meals to guests (when accompanied by that student).

Students living in University Apartments are expected to see an increase of \$10 per month, with rents ranging from \$333 to \$374 per month.

In other action, EIU trustees will consider Eastern's FY 2005 Appropriated and Income Funds Budget Request and review the Campus Master Plan.