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98-181

April 27, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COMMITTEE TO LEAD SEARCH FOR NEXT EIU PRESIDENT NAMED

CHARLESTON -- An 11-member committee has been named to lead the search for Eastern Illinois University's next president.

David L. Jorns, who came to Eastern in 1992, will retire June 30, 1999. His replacement is expected to take office July 1, 1999.

EIU Board of Trustees Chair Susan Gilpin announced the search committee will consist of herself; board members Dr. Mack Hollowell and Nate Anderson; Joe Dively, vice president of Eastern's Alumni Association; Lou Hencken, EIU's vice president for student affairs; students Ellen Eardley and Liz Halbert; Staff Senate representative Sandy Bingham-Porter; and Faculty Senate representatives Bonnie Irwin, Susan Kaufman and Loretta Prater.

Committee members will work with the firm of Heidrick & Struggles, an executive search firm based in Washington D.C., in evaluating/recruiting presidential candidates.

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SEARCH COMMITTEE

Firm representative Jan Greenwood will be on campus May 6, Gilpin said, to talk with students, faculty and staff about what the various constituencies desire/look for in a university president.

Gilpin noted that the search committee will probably hold its first meeting this summer -- after Greenwood has collected her preliminary information.

The board also heard that Monday, May 11, has been designated as the cutoff date for all freshman applications for Fall 1998. Hencken noted that applications are up about 350 students from this time last year despite increases in the university's admission standards.

Former students applying for readmission, graduate students, honor students and recipients of designated scholarships/awards will not be affected by the early cutoff. This action does not affect any transfer categories at the current time.

In action items, board members approved necessary increases in Eastern's room and board rates for the 1998-99 academic year. The increases raise the price of academic year contracts between \$74 and \$100, depending on the meal plan selected. Meal ticket-only options will rise between \$54 and \$80 per year. Rates for Eastern's University Court will rise between \$62 and \$84 per year, depending on the type of accommodations, while rates for Eastern's University Apartments will rise slightly, between \$4 and \$6 per month.

The increases will pay for an anticipated increase in the cost of food and more than \$1.5 million in needed housing repairs and renovations next year.

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"I think it's important to note that our rates are still among the lowest in the state," Hencken told the board. "That's something we strive for and something we'll always strive for."

In other business, trustees approved tenure for 21 faculty members who were eligible and recommended for tenure by President Jorns. They are Freddie Banks, Katherine Bartel, Brian Bolter, James Bruehler, Dell P. Champlin, Charles Delman, Jonelle DePetro, William Fischer, Gregory Galperin, William Gibbs, Martin Hardeman, Kevin Hussey, Leslie Hyder, Bonnie Irwin, Julia Jorgensen, Joseph Manfredo, Carla McDonough, Brian Poulter, Barbara Powell, Karen Taylor and Bailey Young.

Teshome Abebe, who will begin his position as provost and vice president for academic affairs effective July 1, 1998, was also awarded tenure as part of his hiring package. He replaces Terry Weidner, who will retire at the end of June after nearly 35 years as a professor of botany, department chair, associate vice president and finally, provost.

In recognition of Weidner's many years of service, the board presented him with a plaque which read, in part, "Be it resolved that Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees does hereby present this Commendation to Terry Weidner and the trustees do hereby express their utmost gratitude and appreciation for his exemplary service to this university, its students past and present, and the people of Illinois."

The board's Presidential Evaluation Committee presented its annual report on presidential performance during an executive session of the board. After reconvening, the

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board approved Jorns' retention until his scheduled retirement date of June 30, 1999, offering him a four percent increase in pay effective July 1, 1998, and another four percent increase effective Jan. 1, 1999. Jorns' last raise occurred July 1, 1996.

Trustees also approved a budget for the routine repair and maintenance of the University House, the official residence of Eastern's president, and voted to retain current officers for another year. Board officers are: Susan Gilpin, chair; Carl Koerner, vice chair; Nate Anderson, secretary; and Tom Johnson, executive committee member pro tem.

Unless other notice is given, Eastern's Board of Trustees will meet on the following dates in 1999 -- Jan. 25, April 19, July 19 and Oct. 18. All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. in the University Ballroom.