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NEWS

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Sept. 16, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU MAY GET NEW PRESIDENT BEFORE JULY 1, 1999

CHARLESTON -- A new president may take over the helm of Eastern Illinois University prior to the previously announced retirement date of David L. Jorns.

Jorns, who announced more than a year ago that he would be retiring effective June 30, 1999, indicated to Eastern's Board of Trustees that he would be willing to move that date backward should a new president be named and willing to start at an earlier date.

"Dr. Jorns has graciously indicated his willingness to relinquish the presidency if the new president is identified and does take office prior to June 30," said board member Tom Johnson during a special teleconference meeting of the Board of Trustees Wednesday.

"All of this is done with the mutual respect and regard between Dr. Jorns and the university, and therefore I move that the board authorize a presidential transition agreement."

Both sides concurred that the formal agreement will mean a new president *may* take over prior to June 30 -- *not* that a new president *will* take over before the originally announced date.

"This agreement will help ensure a smooth transition for me, my successor and the university," Jorns said following the BOT vote which was unanimously approved. "I appreciate the gesture of affection and regard from the Board of Trustees."

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 11,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

ADD 1/1/1/1

NEW PRESIDENT

In other action regarding the search for a new EIU president, Susan Gilpin, who has been chairing the presidential search committee, announced her resignation as that committee's chair due to personal "short-term" and "non-life-threatening" health issues.

She will retain her position as BOT chairperson.

Johnson, who is from Rockford, will take over the committee's chairmanship.