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Faculty Senate

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Eastern Illinois University

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of April 12, 1983

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Charleston, Illinois

PRESENT: Rooke, Floyd, Searle, S. Smith, Lynch, Gabbard, Heumann, Stoughton, Sutton, Reed, Goodrick

ABSENT: Nordin, Stoner, LeDuc

VISITORS: Vice President Rives, Dr. Sharon Bartling, Dr. Lewis Coon, Susan McCann (Eastern News)

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. From Student Senate - minutes of March 23
2. From Board of Governors - Action Summary of Board Meeting of April 7

NEW BUSINESS:

Goodrick moved, seconded by Heumann, to appoint Chair Lynch to chair the on-campus search committee for President Marvin's replacement. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Task Force on Cooperative Education and Internships
Rives and Bartling spoke to the Senate about the actions of the task force and answered questions. Rooke moved, seconded by Reed, to approve the recommendation of the Task Force on Cooperative Education and Internships. Motion carried. The report can be perused in Rives' office.
2. The following letter was sent to Senator Coffey and Representative Woodyard on March 16, 1983. Neither man has replied.

Dear Senator Coffey:

You are aware of the bleak fiscal situation of the State in general and of Eastern Illinois University in particular. Governor Thompson has proposed \$1.9-billion in tax hikes to rectify the situation. Apparent lack of support from the legislative branch caused the Governor to propose an alternate to the tax increase--a budget that virtually cripples higher education and other human services that the State provides. Specifically, the Governor's fiscal 1984 budget proposes a cut of \$108-million in higher education in Illinois. This translated into 7.5 percent less than even last year's underfunding of Eastern Illinois University. The only proposed alternative to this drastic cut is a tuition increase of some \$500 per year. The tuition increase, coupled with the Governor's proposed reduced budget which provides no funding of some 30,000 state scholarships, would make the cost of higher education prohibitive to many

talented, deserving Illinois residents.

What you may not be aware of is the fact that in addition to penalizing students, staff and faculty, the proposed budget would have an adverse fiscal impact on Charleston and the surrounding community. A recently completed year-long study reported that Eastern Illinois University faculty, staff and students contributed more than \$108-million to the economy of Charleston and Mattoon in 1981. In view of the fact that several established businesses in the area have gone bankrupt recently, any additional curtailment of the University could have further undesirable effects on the area. When state unemployment was 12.6 percent in January, Coles County in February, the State unemployment increased by .9 percent to 13.5 percent in February.

We strongly believe that it is incumbent upon you, the elected representative of the people in Coles County, to assume a leadership role in the state-wide fiscal crisis that has vitally affected the major institution in your constituency. We urgently request that if you cannot support the governor's tax proposals you propose alternatives, perhaps adopting some of the changes suggested by the Governor's own Tax Reform Commission last year. The Illinois Taxpayers Federation states that the total state taxes in Illinois are well below the national average in terms of 1981 taxes per \$1,000 of personal income. Further they state that Illinois is not a high tax state, in that Illinois ranks 39th out of 50 states in the funding of higher education and 50th out of 50 states in funding for the last ten years.

Finally, we ask you to protest the Governor's attempt to hold the educational system of Illinois hostage in order to implement tax increases. Threatening the state's most vital structure for the training and education of its youth is callous and ultimately detrimental to the recovery and growth of Illinois' economy.

These are the facts as we see them. We want you as our duly elected legislator to take a visible role in correcting a fiscal crisis that affects so many of your constituents. You asked for the community's votes in November; we, as part of that community, ask for your help now.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Lynch

The meeting adjourned at 4:00. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on April 19 at 2:30 in the Martinsville Room.

Secretary,

E. G. Gabbard