Press Releases

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01/14/1991 - Bog to Review Eastern Request
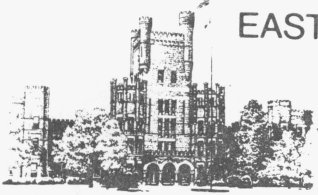
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOG TO REVIEW EASTERN REQUEST

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's request to purchase an IBM

ES9000 Model 260 Mainframe Computer to replace its current IBM 4381 mainframe

computer processor will be before the State Board of Governors Thursday, January 17, in

Chicago.

According to David Henard, Eastern's Associate Vice President for Computer and

Telecommunication Services, since 1986 use of mainframe computing has more than

doubled, often exceeding 50,000 transactions each business day. The installation of the

Financial Accounting System, a purchasing system, and the Alumni/Development System,

in addition to the more than doubled number of users and extensive new system testing,

has consumed available mainframe capacity.

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Henard said Eastern has also added Customer Information Control System (CICS) and data base facilities for its students. He noted that when the laboratories of Lumpkin Hall are connected to the Uniform Campus-wide Area Network (UCAN), so they can be used by students to gain additional access to the on-line environment, additional loading will occur.

New systems planned for implementation during the next few years include Touch Tone Registration, Payroll/Personnel/Position Control (P/P/P), Billing/Receivables, Financial Aids Management, On-line Academic Records, and Degree Audit. Adding the volume from these systems plus the greatly increased number of UCAN users will result in twice as many transactions as are currently occurring.

A mainframe computer processor replacement in July 1991 has been planned for the past three years and has been included in the Five Year Computing Plan. The University has been negotiating with IBM and Hitachi regarding the purchase of a processor.

The list price for the processor is $1,168,000 with a state discounted cost of $946,080. IBM also provided a grant of $241,139 in computer equipment the University planned to purchase and a one-year waiver of license fees for some existing software. A grant ($71,512) for waiver of software licensing for FY93 and FY94 is also included.

In addition to providing faster, more current technology with proven support and training benefits, the IBM processor solution is $59,827 less over a 4.5 year period than Hitachi's best offer.

Eastern President Stan Rives will also brief the Board on the academic space reassignments resulting from the opening of Lumpkin Hall.

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Numerous academic departments and offices on the EIU campus are benefitting from the construction of the new facility. The Lumpkin College of Business is now housed in a state-of-the-art facility with outstanding computer laboratories and case study classrooms. Space in Blair and Coleman Halls vacated in this move has been reassigned to a number of other offices and departments.

The close proximity of Blair Hall to Old Main, where many other student services are housed, makes it an ideal location for academic support services. The availability of visitor parking will make it convenient for students to make use of these services.

Blair Hall now houses the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, formerly in Coleman Hall. The move provides private offices for all the department's faculty members along with additional computer facilities.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs and the Minority Admissions Program are now located in the building, gaining significant space including a student lounge and study area.

The Dean of Academic Development and the Office of Faculty Development are housed in close proximity to the Minority Admissions Program Office. The Academic Assistance Center, previously housed in cramped quarters in the Student Services Building, also benefits by moving into Blair Hall. The space relinquished by the Center has been reallocated to Computer Services.

Departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences still housed in Coleman Hall also benefit from the reallocation of space with private offices now provided for all tenure-track and tenured faculty.