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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RIVES MEETS WITH CEO'S

CHARLESTON, IL--"Eastern Illinois University continues to be a pacesetter among the 12 Illinois State Universities." That's the message Eastern President Stan Rives gave chief executive officers of local financial institutions during a breakfast meeting Monday morning.

Rives had originally scheduled the meeting to request that the financial institutions consider assisting Eastern's employees by providing 30-day zero-interest personal loans if the budget situation was not resolved in Springfield by July 26.

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Although the General Assembly approved the 1991-92 appropriation, resolving the problem, Rives decided to hold the meeting to express his appreciation for their consideration and to update them on some fiscal matters concerning the University.

If the governor signs the appropriation bill, Eastern's budget for the current fiscal year will be approximately \$52 million, a .2 percent increase over last year. He noted that the \$52 million is not the total budget for the University, nor is it all tax dollars. In fact, only about \$35 million comes from tax dollars, the rest represents tuition charges which go to the state and then come back to the University.

The biggest dollar figure in Eastern's budget comes from money generated by the University itself through the residence hall program. This brings the total budget to approximately \$96 million.

This means, Rives said, only 36 percent of Eastern's budget is from Illinois tax dollars. He said that figure has been dropping each year and last year was 40 percent. More and more, Eastern is becoming a tax-assisted instead of a tax-supported University.

He reported that according to recent figures from the Board of Higher Education, Eastern is one of the more cost-effective of the twelve. (Total instructional cost at EIU was \$150.19 per credit hour as compared with a state-wide average cost of \$189.44 per hour for all Illinois public universities.)

The BHE also reports that student room and board costs at Eastern are the lowest in Illinois when the number of meals provided is considered.

Rives told the group that enrollment at Eastern increased by 24.9 percent between 1970 (8,899) and 1990 (11,116), while the total increase at public universities was 8.4 percent.

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RIVES MEETS WITH CEO'S

Rives shared a copy of Phase I of the University's master plan with the group and noted that copies are available at the Coles Together Office and at Booth Library. Phase I lists current conditions of University facilities. Phase II will cover options up to 25 years in the future.

He also noted that the University expects to host some 17,000 visitors this summer at various camps and other special programs. He said this is up from the 8,000 recorded in 1980 and credited Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken for the success of the summer programs.

He said in addition to the economic impact on the local area, the camps are significant to the University because the campers are mostly high school students and represent future Eastern students. (Twenty percent of the student body had attended a summer program before enrolling.)