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Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University

Adm. Announcements

Vol. 7, No. 2
October 14, 1974

The following is a summary of President Rendleman's remarks at the Faculty Meeting held on October 3, 1974.

1. Enrollment. The President noted a hopeful upward trend in enrollment during the present Quarter. Latest figures show that 11,886 students have registered this Quarter (compared to 11,200 last fall).
2. Budget. President Rendleman stressed that we presently are working under the tightest budget in the history of this institution. He said that our present budget is, in fact, the most frugal he has seen in his 24 years of experience in higher education. The budget allows no room for contingencies. He reported that the University's 1975-76 budget request asks the General Assembly to fund salary increases at an average rate of 12.9%. He expressed hope that salary requests from state universities will get more careful and favorable consideration from higher authorities than they have in past years.
3. Governance. President Rendleman reported that the 20-man committee on SIU System governance has submitted its report to the Board of Trustees. He said that he believed the report of the committee would provide still greater autonomy for this University within the SIU System. While he felt it would be inappropriate for him to predict what final action the Board may take in this matter, he said there is reason to feel that the final outcome will be favorable to Edwardsville constituencies.
4. Recruitment and Retention of Students. The President reported that a committee chaired by Dr. Emil Jason, Assistant Vice-President for Special Programs and Minority Affairs, has completed its work and submitted recommendations concerning steps to improve the University's recruitment and retention of students. He stated that all members of the University community must accept the challenge of finding ways to make this campus and its programs more attractive to students. Referring to demographic studies showing declines in the number of schoolage children who will be in the college market in the future, he said it is imperative that the entire University community make a commitment to improving services and programs offered students of all ages.
5. Master Plan--Phase IV. The President expressed disappointment in the BHE approach to developing MP-IV to date. He said BHE seemed disposed to make the Plan a negative statement of goals rather than a rational statement of how State resources can best be allocated to provide educational opportunities throughout the State. He expressed serious concern about a system which fosters bureaucratic decision-making, in Springfield or Chicago, about academic programming at Edwardsville and at other State universities. He said it may be necessary during

this year to challenge the sensibility of the system which focuses programming decisions at the BHE level. Meanwhile, he said it will be necessary to carefully justify all proposals for new academic programs.

6. Innovative Programs. The President encouraged efforts to further develop innovative educational programs. He expressed high hopes for success in the Open University project and urged faculty to cooperate in advancing programs and services under the Regional Council on Interinstitutional Cooperation. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to resident centers at Scott AFB and Greenville College. In encouraging further development of innovative programs, the President said he realized there would be failures, but that innovation was essential to finding new ways to make higher education available to working adults as well as to the traditional higher education market of high school and community college graduates.