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# Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 9, No. 9  
January 17, 1977

*Announcements*

MEMO TO: The University Community

FROM: Kenneth A. Shaw, President

Dear Colleagues, on this, my first day as President, I want to express my very good feelings about being here -- good not only because of the warm and sincere welcome which I have received in my many visits to the campus, but also because of what I perceive to be a positive commitment on the part of the total community- faculty, students and staff- to making this university the best of its kind in the country.

Coming into the university community in mid-year has its pitfalls; I am sensitive to the need for those essential functions which are in midstream to continue. At the same time, however, I am committed to creating a climate that encourages positive change. As I have indicated before, my first efforts will be directed to getting to know this campus and its people. This period of orientation will occur concurrently with the legislative session and at a time when a number of urgent issues demand immediate attention. As a part of my orientation, I have asked a number of different groups to identify for me their perception of the problems and challenges which need immediate or early resolution. Mindful that there will be more problems to resolve than there is time available, I am also inviting the University community to assist me in setting priorities in order to determine which challenges should be tackled first. Within the next month, I intend to ask some 150 representative members of this University community to participate with me in this task. As soon as these priorities have been established, I will formulate a plan and then communicate with you concerning how I believe we should attack the most pressing problems. I plan for this to be accomplished in the very near future.

Secondly, in order to facilitate an orderly progression from the previous administration of this university to the current one, I am designating a transitional period from January 17, 1977 to June 30, 1977. This time will be used to evaluate and, where needed, to modify the organizational structure, to modify personnel assignments, and to establish operational procedures within the administration. Accordingly, I have asked Dr. Ralph W. Ruffner, who has returned to his position as Senior Vice-President for Planning and Review, also to serve during the transitional period as coordinator of the assessment of central organization and operations in order to develop recommendations for my consideration. This period is designed to insure that the administrative function of the university receives the judicious attention it deserves.

I look forward to working with each of you as we pull together in improving all the functions of this institution, and I will attempt to keep you well informed of our progress.