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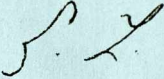
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Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 14, No. 5
March 3, 1983

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson 
SUBJECT: Governor Thompson's Budget Message

Governor James Thompson's budget message to the General Assembly yesterday confirmed the realities of the shortfalls in general revenue funding in Illinois which he had outlined in his State of the State message on February 8, and which I reported in Edwardsville Bulletin, Vol. 14, No. 3. Without additional revenues, the Governor's budget would cut state support for higher education to a level approximately \$108 million below current year appropriations. For SIUE, this means we must continue to make contingency plans for a combination of reductions and reallocations of \$5.3 to \$7.4 million.

Budget planning for FY-84 at SIUE began in January, 1982, with preliminary drafts of planning statements. By summer, 1982, when FY-83 appropriations had been established, I asked chief University officers to begin planning for specific target budgets, with base adjustments of \$1.6 million to accommodate either outright reductions or internal reallocations. Adjustments at this anticipated level were included in the final IBHE recommended budget submitted to the Legislature and the Governor in January.

Now, the University must also prepare a revised budget based on the Governor's message. Facing a 10 percent decrease from this year's funding level, the reduction would amount to about \$3.7 million. In addition, we must plan for the IBHE base adjustments, unavoidable utility price increases, operation and maintenance costs and support costs for critical program needs. Thus, in the absence of sufficient new revenues, the University's potential reduction will range between \$5.3 and \$7.4 million.

Early in February, I called upon the University Planning and Budget Council (UPBC) to make recommendations for reductions and reallocations to meet the projected shortage of funds. The UPBC, in turn, has involved the various constituencies of the University, and emergency budget review meetings have been held almost daily for the past week. Many alternatives have been proposed, but in the final analysis, it would appear unavoidable that an overall budget reduction of 10 percent would require cuts directly affecting all personnel.

(OVER)

Ultimately, we must decide the course that we will follow, based on the resources and the best information available. I want to assure the University community that I will do everything I can to develop an operating budget for FY-84 which is fair and which will bring the least hardship to all concerned. Reductions of the magnitude being considered threaten to critically impair our ability to pursue our educational mission, but I will insist that whatever may come, the University's essential operations and basic academic mission must be maintained.

I want to reiterate my pledge of support and cooperation to those responsible leaders, including our Governor and our advocates in the General Assembly, who are working to ensure the resources needed to preserve the future for our children and our state. The value of higher education cannot be overemphasized. I intend to keep reminding all who will listen that a society which will not pay the tariff for transmitting its civilization and values nor pay the cost of preparing future generations for productive work, is bankrupt.