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Edwardsville Bulletin

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

July 5, 1983
Vol. 14, No. 10

MEMO TO: The University Community

FROM: Earl Lazerson 

SUBJECT: FY-84 Appropriations

The Illinois General Assembly has acted in a responsible fashion in providing for tax increases to meet the needs of the people of the state. Although the new funding is substantially less than the amount requested by Governor Thompson and includes major cutbacks in many areas, and although the major portion of the tax package, the income tax increase, is temporary in nature, the increases will allow the University to maintain essential operations and our educational mission.

Advances will be possible in some academic areas, including programs that tie most directly to economic development--engineering, computer science and business. Further, the new budget will allow for the implementation of modest salary increase plans for faculty and staff.

However, the University must continue to make substantial base budget reductions and internal reallocations. These negative adjustments will total between \$1.5 and \$2 million. They are necessitated by cost reduction programs, unfunded utility needs and other similar matters.

Precise budget distributions cannot be completed until final action on appropriations has been taken by the Governor and university allocations have been announced by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Thus, a number of questions concerning programs and personnel are pending resolutions.

Even with the uncertainties and the prospect of funding battles in the Legislature again next year, I believe we can approach the future with guarded optimism. We are far better off today than we would have been if tax increases had not been passed. I want to pay special tribute to all who were involved in any way in aiding the Legislature and Governor save the future for the citizens of Illinois.