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BULLETIN

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

Vol. 21, No. 14
October 24, 1990

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

OCT 24 1990

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
AT EDWARDSVILLE

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson *E.L.*
SUBJECT: Vice President for Student Affairs

From 1971 to 1980, the chief officer for student affairs at SIUE was a Vice President. In July of 1980, as part of a general reorganization of the administrative structure of the University, the Office of Student Affairs was subsumed within Academic Affairs and its chief officer, a dean of students, reported directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The change was instituted to rectify what I perceived to be organizational barriers hampering the management of student services, and the need for better coordination and communication among functional areas.

In 1983 Dr. Constance Rockingham became Acting Dean of Students, and she was appointed Dean of Students in 1984. Her prior work at the University, beginning in 1976, included service as a lecturer in social sciences, as an assistant professor in the Experiment in Higher Education, and as Assistant Coordinator of the Learning Skills Center at the East St. Louis Center. In 1978, she was appointed Assistant to the Director of the Academic Resource Center, and in 1981 she became Director of Special Services for Disadvantaged Students. She was appointed Assistant Dean of Students in 1982.

As a result of Dr. Rockingham's effective stewardship of the Office of Student Affairs, in 1986 it again became a freestanding unit reporting directly to the President. Its importance to student life and learning has grown steadily since that time. Major achievements under Dean Rockingham's leadership include the creation of an alcohol and drug awareness program, a University wellness program, the State-mandated immunization program, and the Student Leadership Development Program. Dean Rockingham was instrumental in the development of plans for the Student Health and Fitness Center, and she has primary responsibility for student housing and for the development of additional housing facilities. She will shortly assume administrative responsibility for general management of the Vadalabene Center thereby freeing up resources to strengthen Foundation operations.

In its 1989 review of Dr. Rockingham's performance, the Committee for Higher Administrator Performance Appraisal recommended that at a suitable time "...the position of Dean of Students be elevated to that of Vice President for Student Affairs, recognizing that the scope of the present office, responsibilities, the workload, and the perceptions of students, warrants a higher level position. Consideration might be given to an elevation or to an open job search."

Based on the scope and importance of the Office of Student Affairs, I believe it is now warranted that its chief officer be a Vice President. In addition, based on her performance as Dean of Students and on long-standing institutional practice to promote from within, it is my judgment that Dean Rockingham, through meritorious service including evidence of growth in accepting and handling new challenges, has earned the right to this position.

(over)

I have, therefore, recommended these changes to Chancellor Pettit, and he has approved them. They are subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees and will be on the Board's agenda in November. If approved by the Board, Dr. Rockingham will become Vice President for Student Affairs at an annual salary of \$66,000, effective October 15, 1990.

Dr. Rockingham's professional affiliations include the American College Personnel Association, the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the Association for Student Judicial Affairs. She serves as an officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, is on the Board of Directors of Piasa Health Care in Wood River, is on the board of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of State Community College in East St. Louis. She received her baccalaureate degree from McKendree College in 1975, the Master of Science degree from SIUE in 1978, and the Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from SIUC in 1981.

I am confident that Dr. Rockingham will continue the record of achievement and service she has established. I invite you to join in congratulating her on her new title. Working together we can continue progress toward our goals, and advance the University to the benefit of our students and the region we serve.