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MEMO TO: SIUE Community  
FROM: David Wemer  
SUBJECT: Facilities in East St. Louis; Former Metropolitan Community College

As you know, enhancement of SIUE’s physical facilities in East St. Louis is a high priority. The University received $400k in FY98 to study whether the existing building should be renovated or replaced. In FY99, the University received an additional $1.118M to continue planning for a new or renovated facility. For FY00, funds for construction or renovation of the East St. Louis facility is SIU’s highest capital budget priority, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has recommended funding for the project to the Governor.

As you also are probably aware, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) has disbanded the former Metropolitan Community College (MCC) in East St. Louis. The ICCB has contracted with the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) to operate the former MCC site as the Community College Center of East St. Louis. (SICCM is a consortium of four community colleges and SIUE and SIUC.) In addition to managing the facility, SICCM will be contracting with various Illinois community colleges to offer programs at the site of the former MCC to serve the citizens of the East St. Louis area. Gloria Atkins, SIUE Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration, is on loan to SICCM for six months to serve as Director of the East St. Louis Community College Center.

In view of the changes occurring at MCC, SIU has had discussions with the staff of the ICCB to determine if SIUE and the citizens of the East St. Louis area would be better served if SIUE relocated its facilities to the MCC site. Accordingly, the architects employed to design renovated or new facilities for SIUE in East St. Louis have studied this matter. They concluded that it would be less expensive for the State of Illinois if SIUE and the community colleges were to share existing space rather than build a totally new space for SIUE and renovate the former MCC site for the community colleges to use. Accordingly, the University is continuing discussions with ICCB about how we might go about sharing space, and building only the additional space necessary to meet unique SIUE needs, particularly clinical space for the Schools of Dental Medicine and Nursing.

I will keep you informed of events regarding our facilities in East St. Louis.