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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

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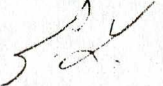
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Edwardsville Bulletin

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

Vol. 13, No. 3
March 4, 1982

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson 
SUBJECT: Governor Thompson's FY 1983 Budget Message

Governor Thompson delivered his FY 1983 budget message to the Illinois Legislature on Wednesday, March 3. Although specific recommendations for SIUE must await further Illinois Board of Higher Education staff action, we believe that certain estimates are possible at this time concerning our budget for next year.

Three factors broadly influence all Illinois state university budgets: (1) the level of general revenue (state tax) funding, (2) the level of funding derived from tuition, and (3) the nature of special adjustments to base budgets. Governor Thompson's FY 1983 budget contains a \$53 million reduction in general revenue support for all levels of education, of which \$18 million will be expected from higher education. Previous Illinois Board of Higher Education recommendations include significant increased revenues from tuition increases, and base budget reductions for productivity, high instructional costs, and health programs.

Our present assessment of the probable net results of these decisions suggests that we face a budget reduction of \$1.1 - \$1.3 million, which is approximately what we have been planning for since last summer. Consequences, of course, are severe. In addition to the threat to program quality posed by the reductions, we can expect no salary increases and no increases to offset higher prices. Whatever inflation rates we experience next year thereby become in effect additional budget reductions. We expect the consequences of price increases without concomitant funding to be especially difficult to manage in our utilities budget.

While next year's fiscal picture is somber, Illinois has avoided the truly drastic and sudden reductions which have been experienced elsewhere. Further, there is hope, albeit slight, that the state's economy may improve later this year. Governor Thompson has proposed certain tax increases and has stated that education and mental health will be his first priorities should revenues improve. Finally the situation described here is an estimate -- IBHE actions regarding the distribution of the Governor's level budget will occur in April.