



**Report  
to the  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting**

April 16, 2026

## **EIU'S MISSION STATEMENT**

**Eastern Illinois University is a public comprehensive university that offers superior, accessible undergraduate and graduate education. Students learn the methods and results of free and rigorous inquiry in the arts, humanities, sciences, and professions, guided by a faculty known for its excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and service. The University community is committed to diversity and inclusion and fosters opportunities for student-faculty scholarship and applied learning experiences within a student-centered campus culture. Throughout their education, students refine their abilities to reason and to communicate clearly so as to become responsible citizens and leaders.**



## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

President	Dr. Jay D. Gatrell
Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Dr. Holly Farley
Vice President for Business Affairs	Mr. Matthew J. Bierman
Vice President for Student Affairs	Dr. Anne G. Flaherty
Interim Vice President for University Advancement	Dr. Anne G. Flaherty
Vice President for Enrollment Management	Mr. Josh Norman
Director of Business Services/Treasurer	Mr. Mike Hutchinson
General Counsel	Ms. Laura McLaughlin
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Dr. Barbara Bonnekenes
Dean, Lumpkin College of Business and Technology	Dr. Austin Cheney
Dean, College of Education	Dr. Laretta Henderson
Dean, College of Health & Human Services	Dr. John R. Storsved
Dean, Honors College	Dr. Richard England
Dean, Library Services	Mr. Brian Keith
Dean, Student Success	Dr. Michael Gillespie
L.M. Hammond Dean, Graduate School & Vice Provost for Sponsored Research	Dr. Angela S. Jacobs
Interim Dean of Students	Dr. John Blue

# EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### AGENDA

April 16, 2026

Dvorak Concert Hall - Doudna

Eastern Illinois University

Charleston, IL 61920

- 11:30 a.m. I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Executive Session *(If voted upon by the Board in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.)*
- 1:00 p.m. III. Reports
- A. Report from the Board Chair
  - B. Committee Reports
- IV. Action Items
- A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026
  - B. Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution
  - C. First Supplemental AFS Bond Resolution
  - D. Purchase Approvals
    - 1. 2026 Parking Lot Bids
    - 2. MLK, Jr. University Union Structural Repairs
    - 3. Underwriting Services
    - 4. Thomas Hall Construction Approval
    - 5. Food and Non-Food Items for Resale
  - E. Personnel Contract - Intercollegiate Athletics
    - 1. M. Simmons – Extension
    - 2. D. Bennett - Extension
  - F. 2026-2027 Tuition
  - G. 2026-2027 Student Fees
  - H. 2026-2027 Housing & Dining Rates
  - I. Academic Affairs Restructuring
  - J. Tenure Recommendations
  - K. Follett Spirit Store – MLK, Jr. University Union Bookstore Operations
  - L. Annual Meeting – Election of Officers
- V. Information Items
- A. President’s Report
    - IBHE: EHSI Grant – The EIU Project – Dr. Suzie Park
  - B. Reports from Constituencies
  - C. Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999
  - D. Deposit and Investment Report
  - E. Public Comment
  - F. University Highlights
  - G. Other Matters
- VI. Adjournment

*To learn more about the procedures for public comment, please visit:*

<https://www.eiu.edu/trustees/regulation01.php#:~:text=At%20the%20end,to%20the%20Board>

### III. REPORTS

#### A. Report from the Board Chair

#### B. Committee Reports

##### **Executive/Planning Committee**

Christopher Hicks, Chair

##### **Finance/Audit Committee**

Timi Ngoboh, Chair

##### **Academic/Student Affairs Committee**

Julie Everett, Chair

##### **University Advancement/Alumni Relations Committee**

Bernie Rancho, Chair

##### **Civil Service Merit Board**

Barb Baurer, Chair

##### **Board Regulations**

Executive/Planning Committee

Note: All trustees are members of all committees.

**Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS**

**January 22, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened on January 22, 2026, at 11:25 am in the Grand Ballroom of MLK Jr. University Union, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Chair, presided.

**Roll Call**

Roll was called:

Ms. Baurer	Present
Ms. Everett	Present
Ms. Madigan	Absent
Mr. Ngoboh	Absent
Dr. Rancho	Absent
Ms. Veatch	Present
Mr. Hicks	Present

Also present were the following:

Dr. Jay Gatrell, President  
Dr. Holly Farley, Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Mr. Matt Bierman, Vice President for Business Affairs  
Mr. Mike Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer  
Ms. Mindy Spencer, Vice President for University Advancement  
Mr. Josh Norman, Vice President for Enrollment Management  
Mr. Austin Hill, General Counsel  
Ms. Cindy Hutchison, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees

**Executive Session**

Ms. Veatch moved that the Board of Trustees convene in Executive Session to consider employment of employees, collective negotiating matters and executive session minutes as permitted by Section 2.C.1, 2 and 21 of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

## **Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

Ms. Veatch moved to return to the Open Session. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Board of Trustees reconvened after lunch at 1:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom of MLK Jr. University Union for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Report from Board Chair**

Chair Hicks opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance and thanked the group for their commitment to Eastern Illinois University.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Executive/Planning Committee**

Chair Hicks shared President Gatrell's Springfield update emphasizing we are expecting a flat budget to be announced in mid-February from the governor's office. Senator Rose recently advanced a bill that will reduce auditing compliance issues, specifically concerning faculty time reporting which has been a recurring finding at universities.

Reorganization efforts were discussed and the plan will be presented next week during President Gatrell's Spring Update. With the departure of General Counsel, Austin Hill at the end of January, a new model for his position will be used going forward. Laura McLaughlin is returning to EIU January 26, 2026, in a part time capacity as General Counsel; Carson Klein will begin January 26, 2026, also in a part time capacity as the Special Assistant & Chief FOIA officer; and Shawn Peoples, Office of Civil Rights, will take on ethics duties. A review will be done in a year before making this model permanent. Chair Hicks thanked Mr. Hill for his dedication and service to Eastern Illinois University.

#### **Finance/Audit Committee**

Chair Hicks reported on Mike Hutchinson's line-item status report and VP Bierman's budget update, purchase approvals and bond discussion. The two purchase approvals being brought to the board for vote are: (1) Cooling Tower of Lawson – Modification and (2) Thomas Hall Renovation Construction Document Design. The University is reviewing our debt options with Chapman and Cutler and Blue Rose, the option to borrow between \$12 - \$14 M for the renovation of Thomas Hall. Updates were given on the utility tunnel project, Frost Field lights and the Science Building.

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Ms. Everett shared VP Farley's reorganization update and the process to date. The deadline for reorganization proposals was November 21, 2025, and 21 were received. Stakeholders met on December 9, 2025, that included faculty senate executive members, faculty, chairs and administrators from all four colleges. On January 13, 2026, President Gatrell shared a draft of the

## **Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

reorganization plan and asked for feedback. The reorganization will generate cost savings of over \$500,000 with no program reductions.

VP Farley also presented the Associate of Arts in General Studies that is to be voted on at today's meeting. This degree will serve a growing population of students who have some college and no degree. Former EIU students would qualify if they have successfully earned at least 60 credit hours with a minimum of 2.0 GPA. VP Farley thanked Dr. Suzie Park and the CLAS Deans Office and Curriculum Committee for their work on this project.

Ms. Everett shared VP Flaherty's update on the Thomas Hall renovations. The initial estimate came in over budget at \$29 M; cuts were made to focus on need over want. The final plan will be brought to the board in April with a goal to begin construction early Summer 2026 and open to students Fall 2027. VP Flaherty acknowledged Mark Hudson and his team for all the work and research done on this project and thanked him for his over 25 years of dedication to EIU. Mr. Hudson accepted the VSIP and will be leaving EIU at the end of January. Jeremy Alexander will serve as interim director until a search next fall.

Five proposals were received and presentations were made on campus for RFI textbook rental. It was decided to focus on a bookstore popper also known as a spirit shop. We are currently waiting for a final offer from one of the vendors.

The EIU alert system has been changed from an opt-in to an opt-out model. Students, faculty and employees are automatically enrolled and up to four additional numbers can be added per individual. The speaker system around campus that announces weather emergencies can now be used for an active shooter alert. VP Flaherty thanked Ryan Gibson and his team for all their work to improve communication.

### **University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee**

Ms. Everett shared VP Spencer's update for University Advancement and Alumni Relations. Raiser's Edge is live and fully functional. VP Spencer shared that Mike Murray retired at the end of the year and Jon McKenzie will retire in January. She thanked them both for their years of service to EIU. The Foundation Executive Officer responsibilities will move to VP Spencer and Nancy Murray will take on supervisor duties and high-level projects. Mallorie Fonseca has joined the Foundation team as Associate Director of Gift Administration and Clint Harper joined the Advancement team as Associate Director of Alumni Engagement.

FY26 fundraising updates included gifts received totaling \$3,177,294 with individual gifts averaging \$810; annual fund is \$2,369,887. Giving Day will be on April 22, 2026, and the Undergraduate Research Fund will launch on this day. Ms. Everett announced she will be offering a challenge again this year.

## Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026

Dr. Don Holly will be speaking at the February 12 alumni event in Scottsdale, AZ. Visit the Alumni Relations website to view all upcoming events. [Alumni Events | EIU Alumni Relations | Eastern Illinois University](#)

### Enrollment Management Update

Mr. Hicks shared VP Norman’s Strategic Enrollment Planning update. Most of the 100 action items are completed or in motion. A re-entry program will offer incremental scholarships to help former students with outstanding debt and support REUP to re-engage students who left EIU before July 2023.

Spring enrollment is expected to decline by 2%. International student enrollment continues to decline with 240 students in comparison to nearly 900 in Fall 2024. Undergraduate enrollment is stable and seeing an increase in new domestic first year students and incoming spring transfers. Retention among first years is up 2.3% with nearly a 7% gain among students in the new PACK program.

FASFA submissions are 16% higher than last year and campus visits are up 10%. Financial Aid packets are expected to be completed by the end of this week.

### Action Items

- A. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 board meeting. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
  
- B. 1. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the purchase approval of Cooling Tower at Lawson Modification. The lowest bidder, including alternates and contingencies, is higher than estimated. Alternates #1 and #4 can be deferred to a later project date; Alternates #1 and 2 is \$728,712. A 10% contingency is included, bringing the total amount to \$801,583. Ms. Everett seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Ms. Baurer	Yes
Ms. Everett	Yes
Ms. Madigan	Absent
Ms. Veatch	Yes
Mr. Ngoboh	Absent
Dr. Ranchoero	Absent
Mr. Hicks	Yes

Motion carried.

**Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

2. Ms. Everett moved to approve the purchase approval Thomas Hall Renovation Construction Document Design. Cost not to exceed \$1,100,000. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Ms. Baurer	Yes
Ms. Everett	Yes
Ms. Madigan	Absent
Ms. Veatch	Yes
Mr. Ngoboh	Absent
Dr. Ranchoero	Absent
Mr. Hicks	Yes

Motion carried.

- C. Ms. Everett moved to approve the Master Contract between EIU and EIUF Board. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- D. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the Transfer Lease of Baber Woods to Grand Prairie Friends. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- E. Ms. Everett moved to approve the New Program – General Studies, A.A. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

**Information Items**

**President’s Report**

President Gatrell introduced Dr. Robert Strausbaugh who gave a presentation on the EIU Observatory.

The EIU Observatory is located south of Lantz Stadium and houses the largest telescope at a public Illinois university measuring 16” in diameter. The initial funding for the Observatory came from Brenda and Randy Wright and P. Scott Smith. Construction began in 2002 pioneered by Jim Conwell and was completed in 2004. A second dome and telescope were added in 2018 for solar astronomy, and a new dome and weather station were installed in 2024. A new camera was acquired in 2025 and first light with the new camera is scheduled for Summer 2026.

Research projects include international collaborations with Skynet and GRANDMA; time-domain astronomy; student research in dome automation and detector characterization.

**Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

The Observatory hosts monthly open houses typically on the last Friday of the month during the Fall and Spring semesters. EIU Astronomy Club, local school class visits, Scout events and other special astronomical events are also held at the Observatory.

**Reports from Constituencies**

Faculty Senate – Mr. Todd Bruns shared updates from Faculty Senates January 13 meeting. He thanked President Gatrell for his transparency and emphasis on shared governance throughout the reorganization process. Three new senators have been appointed to faculty senate: Gabe Grant, Steve Scher, and Kiran Padmaraju with Amy Davis alternating as a replacement for Jeanne Okrasinski. EIU Think Tank was created in 2022 and in recent years has lost several of its members. Todd Bruns and Teshome Abebe are developing a set of format and skills criteria. When the work is complete, they will discuss it to President Gatrell and appoint individuals to serve.

Student Senate – Ms. Claire Weber shared updates from Student Senate. Senate currently has 11 sitting senators, and they will begin preparing them for budget season. Monday, January 26 begins SGA week and Pantherpalooza is on January 31.

**Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999 and Exempt Purchases**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Type of Purchase</b>	<b>Bids</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Dynamic Controls Inc.	Building Automation Upgrade	(A)	\$245,274.00
Spears Aquatics LLC	Swimming Pool Filter Upgrade	(B)	\$124,929.00
Getz Fire Equipment Company	Buzzard Hall Fire Alarm Upgrade	(C)	\$115,924.00

- (A) Sole Source # EIUDLS2602
- (B) Emergency Purchase # EIUMRW2602
- (C) Sole Source # EIUMEM2602

**Deposit & Investment Report for the Quarter ended 9-30-2025**

For the quarter ending December 31, 2025, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$102,703,266.78 and a net average daily balance of \$101,793,461.98. The annualized average yield was 4.14%.

**Financial Aid Summary, FY25**

More than 50% of Eastern’s total student population and over 80% of the eligible students received some type of financial assistance in FY 2025 in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, tuition waivers and/or employment from various federal, state, university, and other programs. Financial aid in FY 2025 totaled \$89,415,293, with the average aid amount students received increasing by over 4%. The percentage breakdown of financial aid sources was: 41% federal, 16% state, 32% institutional, and 11% other.

## **Action Item A. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026**

### **University Highlights**

University Highlights were provided as well as spotlight events around campus, student/faculty/staff/alumni honors and achievements, athletic events and honors.

### **Other Matters – None**

### **Public Comment**

The following individual provided public comment:

- Michele McDaniel

*To learn more about the procedures for public comment, please visit:*

<https://www.eiu.edu/trustees/regulation01.php#:~:text=At%20the%20end,to%20the%20Board>

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

## Action Item B: Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution

### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED AUXILIARY FACILITIES SYSTEM BOND RESOLUTION

APRIL 16, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University (the “*Board*”) has the authority to issue Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds (the “*Bonds*”) under the Eastern Illinois University Revenue Bond Law, 110 ILCS 666/11-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities, acting for and on behalf of the University, on December 5, 1985, did adopt a resolution, as subsequently supplemented and amended by resolutions duly adopted by the Board (as so supplemented and amended, the “*Original Resolution*”), pursuant to which the Board has issued certain series of Bonds, none of which are currently Outstanding (as defined in the Original Resolution); and

WHEREAS, the Board, for and on behalf of the University, on due consideration and investigation, does now find and determine that it is advisable and necessary and in the interest of the University and the welfare of its students and faculty to adopt an Amended and Restated Auxiliary Facilities System Bond Resolution, which will amend and restate the Original Resolution to update it to reflect current auxiliary facility financing and market practices, and pursuant to which the Board will issue future series of Bonds (the “*Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution*”):

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. The Board hereby determines it to be desirable to and hereby authorizes the adoption of the Amended and Restated Auxiliary Facilities System Bond Resolution, which will amend and restate the Original Resolution to, without limitation, (a) revise provisions governing the use of excess funds of the Eastern Illinois University Auxiliary Facilities System (the “*System*”), (b) revise provisions relating to adding or disposing of System facilities, and (c) update the facilities that comprise the System, as set forth in *Exhibit A* to the Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution, to be executed by the Chairperson and attested by the Secretary of the Board in the form consistent with this Resolution and based upon the recommendation of the University General Counsel and the Board’s Financial Advisor, pursuant to which any additional future Bonds will be issued, and such execution shall conclusively evidence approval by the Board of the terms of the Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution.

2. The Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Board and the members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this Resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the

intent and purposes of this Resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

Board Action on: \_\_\_\_\_ Postpone: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Amend: \_\_\_\_\_

Second By: \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yeas: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

Board of Trustees

## Action Item C. First Supplemental AFS Bond Resolution

### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AUXILIARY FACILITIES SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS

APRIL 16, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University (the “*Board*”) has the authority to issue Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds under the Eastern Illinois University Revenue Bond Law, 110 ILCS 666/11-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to issue its Eastern Illinois University Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 (the “*Bonds*”) in an amount not to exceed \$14,000,000 million for the purpose of providing funds to finance student housing renovations and other campus improvement projects related to the Auxiliary Facilities System (the “*Project*”), and to pay necessary costs of issuance; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds and as permitted by Section 15 of the Bond Resolution, the Board will deliver a First Supplemental System Revenue Bond Resolution (the “*First Supplemental System Revenue Bond Resolution*”), as supplemented by a Notification of Sale; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds will be sold to DNT Asset Trust (the “*Purchaser*”), an affiliate of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., which will serve as representative of the Purchaser (the “*Bondholder Representative*”); and

WHEREAS, as a condition to its purchase of the Bonds, the Purchaser requires the Board to enter into a Continuing Covenants Agreement with it and the Bondholder Representative, which Continuing Covenants Agreement will set forth terms relating to the Bonds and the sale and purchase thereof (the “*Continuing Covenants Agreement*”); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Eastern Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. It is hereby determined to be desirable that the Board authorize the execution and delivery of its Bonds in order to provide funds to finance the Project and to pay necessary issuance costs. The Bonds shall be in a maximum principal amount not to exceed \$14,000,000 with a final maturity no later than three (3) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The maximum interest rate on the Bonds will not exceed 5.00%, as allowed within the Bond Authorization Act, 30 ILCS 305/1 *et seq.* The final terms of the Bonds shall be approved by the Treasurer of the Board or his or her designee (the “*Board Treasurer*”) within the parameters set forth in this Resolution and said approval shall be evidenced by the Board Treasurer’s execution of the Continuing Covenants Agreement.
2. U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, Chicago, Illinois, is hereby authorized to serve as Bond Registrar and Paying Agent for the Bonds.

3. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of Chapman and Cutler LLP is hereby retained as Bond Counsel to the Board.

4. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of Blue Rose Capital Advisors LLC is hereby retained as Financial Advisor to the Board.

5. The Board deems it is in the public interest to sell the Bonds to Purchaser.

6. The Board acknowledges that Chapman has an existing attorney-client relationship with the Bondholder Representative and currently represents the Bondholder Representative in matters unrelated to the Bonds and in which the Board is not involved. The Board hereby consents to and waives any actual or potential conflicts of interest arising from Chapman's concurrent representation of the Bondholder Representative or its affiliates in such unrelated matters, provided that (a) confidential information received from either party shall remain confidential, and (b) this consent and waiver does not extend to any threatened or actual proceeding adverse to the Board that may arise among the parties in connection with the Bonds. The General Counsel of the University is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Conflict Waiver letter from Chapman dated March 31, 2026 in the form presented to this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the General Counsel.

7. The Board approves the forms of the First Supplemental System Revenue Bond Resolution and the Continuing Covenants Agreement, copies of which are on file with the Board. The officers of the Board, as well as the President, are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Notification of Sale and the Continuing Covenants Agreement (collectively, the "*Transaction Documents*") in the name of and on behalf of the Board in the forms presented to this meeting, or with such changes and completions as may be approved by the officer or officers of the Board executing the same, his or her or their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of the Transaction Documents.

8. The officers of the Board and the members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this Resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the intent and purposes of this resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

So approved in the affirmative by record of vote.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

## **Action Item D.1 2026 Parking Lot Bids**

**Purchase Item:** Parking Lot Maintenance

**Description / Explanation:** This purchase is for parking lot and drive maintenance at up to six campus locations. Invitation for Bid EIUMJT2601 was conducted in accordance with 30 ILCS 500

**Cost:** \$438,145.95.00 (Bid price of \$398,314.50 with a 10% contingency)

**Recommended Vendor:** Ne-Co Asphalt Co., Inc.

**Summary of Bids:** Ne-Co Asphalt Co., Inc.

**BEP Goals:** A BEP goal of 8% was calculated for this IFB following the CMS Goal Setting Procedure. Ne-Co Asphalt Co., Inc. will be utilizing BEP certified vendors for 11% of the bid total.

**Fund Source:** Parking Funds

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this purchase item.**

## **Action Item D.2 MLK, Jr. University Union Structural Repairs**

**Purchase Item:** MLK Jr. Union Structural Repairs

**Description / Explanation:** This purchase is for the replacement of damaged structural framing, repairs to a retaining wall and associated replacement of guardrails, and miscellaneous concrete and masonry repairs. Invitation for Bid EIUDLS2603 is being conducted in accordance with 30 ILCS 500.

**Cost:** Number to be provided prior to Board Meeting (bids to be opened on March 31, 2026)

**Recommended Vendor:** TBD

**Summary of Bids:** TBD

**BEP Goals:** A BEP goal of 30% was included on the IFB.

**Fund Source:** MLK Jr. Union Operating and Auxiliary Reserves

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this purchase item.**

## Action Item D.3 Underwriting Services

<b>Purchase Item:</b>	Underwriting Services Renewal
<b>Description / Explanation:</b>	Approval is requested for renewal of our contracts with Stifel, Nicholas & Company (Stifel) and Mesirow Financial Inc. (Mesirow) as managing underwriters for the University's currently anticipated and future debt issuance. The University proposes to renew both contracts under the same terms and process as the original award. The underwriters will help the University and bond advisor, Blue Rose Capital Advisors, LLC to obtain the best possible price for the sale of the refinanced bonds. The original awards to Stifel and Mesirow had an initial term of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026 with the University's option to renew for one additional five-year period. We are requesting to exercise the five-year renewal option for a term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.
<b>Cost:</b>	NTE \$400,000.00 each
<b>Recommended Vendor:</b>	Stifel, Nicholas & Company St. Louis, MO  and  Mesirow Financial, Inc. Chicago, IL
<b>Summary of Bids:</b>	RFP BP023998 was awarded and renewed in accordance with 30 ILCS 500.
<b>BEP Goals:</b>	There was no BEP goal for this procurement originally, and the renewal was assessed to determine any changes as required by 30 ILCS 575/8i. No BEP goal was calculated for this renewal.
<b>Fund Source:</b>	Payment for the underwriting services will come from the proceeds of the sale of the refinanced certificates of participation. The certificates of participation will ultimately be paid with Appropriated, Local, and Revenue Bond Funds.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this purchase item.**

## **Action Item D.4 Thomas Hall Renovation Construction**

**Purchase Item:** Thomas Hall Renovation Construction

**Description / Explanation:** Thomas Hall requires partial renovation to improve student retention and recruitment. We intend to use CORE Construction for this project under IPHEC1708. This is the third part of the overall Job Order Contracting project. Per V.B.1.d of the Board Regulations, purchases from vendors awarded via IPHEC do not require Board approval, however we would like full Board consideration due to the size of the scope.

**Cost:** NTE \$13,000,000

**Recommended Vendor:** CORE Construction

**Summary of Bids:** IPHEC1708 has been awarded in accordance with 30 ILCS 525.

**BEP Goals:** CORE Construction is required to subcontract at least 30% of all projects with certified BEP firms under this contract award.

**Fund Source:** Auxiliary Enterprise Funds to be reimbursed by future debt issue.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this purchase item.**

## **Action Item D.5 Food and Non -Food Items for Resale**

**Purchase Item:** Food and Non-Food Items for Resale

**Description / Explanation:** Chick Fil A food and non-food items are purchased for resale at the Chick Fil A location in the food court. This location has recently expanded to a full store.

**Cost:** Not to Exceed \$413,000.00 for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

**Recommended Vendor:** Chick Fil A Inc. Atlanta, GA

**Summary of Bids:** This purchase is exempt from the Procurement Code under 30 ILCS 500/1-13(b)(2), procurement expenditure is for events or activities paid for exclusively by revenues generated by the event or activity, gifts, or donations for the event or activity, private grants, or any combination thereof.

**Fund Source:** Auxiliary Enterprise Funds

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve this purchase item.**

## **Action Item E. Personnel Contract – Intercollegiate Athletics**

### **Extension in Multi-year Athletics Contract**

1. Martin R. Simmons, Head Basketball Coach. This agenda item extends the current terms for two additional years, terminating on March 31, 2029. Usual terms offered to EIU's coaches shall remain in effect.
2. Dirk Bennett, Head Soccer Coach. This agenda item extends the current terms for two additional years, terminating on March 31, 2029. Except as outlined in the extension usual terms offered to EIU's coaches shall remain in effect.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel contract.**

**F. 2026-2027 Tuition Recommendations**

**Proposed FY27 Tuition  
(Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Summer 2027)**

**Undergraduate** - A student who has not earned the baccalaureate degree will pay the following tuition per credit hour:

	<u>Illinois Resident</u>			
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Change</u>
FY27 New Students – Per Credit Hour	\$347.65	\$356.34	\$8.69	2.50%
Continuing, Non-guaranteed students – Per Credit Hour	\$338.35	\$347.65	\$9.30	2.90%

Effective FY05, state law (110 ILCS 665/10-120) provides that tuition for new undergraduate Illinois resident students will remain the same for four continuous academic years. The guaranteed tuition rate period is extended for undergraduate degree programs approved by the University for completion in more than four years. The extension is limited to the minimum number of additional semester(s) to complete the program as approved by the University. This list of programs approved by the University for completion in more than four years is maintained by the Provost. In addition, state law limits the tuition increase applied in a continuing resident undergraduate student’s fifth and sixth years. Continuing, non-guaranteed students are charged the guaranteed student rate for first fiscal year prior to the current year.

Previous Resident Rates:

FY26 Guaranteed Students – Per Credit Hour	\$347.65
FY25 Guaranteed Students – Per Credit Hour	\$338.35
FY24 Guaranteed Students – Per Credit Hour	\$330.10
FY23 Guaranteed Students – Per Credit Hour	\$323.63
FY22 Guaranteed Students – Per Credit Hour	\$315.74

**Non-Illinois Undergraduate Students – Domestic**

New undergraduate students beginning fall semester 2024 at Eastern Illinois University who have a permanent legal domicile within the United States of America will be assessed in-state tuition.

**Non-Illinois Undergraduate Students – International**

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Per Credit Hour</b>	\$434.56	\$445.43	\$10.86	2.50%

Undergraduate international students will be assessed tuition at 1.25 times the Illinois Resident state rate for undergraduate students.

**F. 2026-2027 Tuition Recommendations**

**Graduate** - A post-baccalaureate student will pay the following tuition per credit hour (regardless of the level of courses in which he/she enrolls):

**Illinois Resident**

	<b><u>FY25</u></b>	<b><u>FY26</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed FY27</u></b>	<b><u>\$ Increase</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>
<b>Per Credit Hour</b>	\$344.25	\$353.72	\$363.98	\$10.26	2.90%

**Non-Resident (Domestic and International)**

	<b><u>FY25</u></b>	<b><u>FY26</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed FY27</u></b>	<b><u>\$ Increase</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>
<b>Per Credit Hour</b>	\$826.20	\$848.93	\$873.55	\$24.62	2.90%

Graduate international students will be assessed tuition at 2.4 times the Illinois Resident state rate for graduate students.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve these tuition recommendations for FY26.**

**G. 2026-2027 Student Fees**

<b>Mandatory Fees for Programs Delivered On Campus</b>
--

<b>Fees Charged By Credit Hours</b>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<b>Proposed FY2027</b>	
				<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Student Activity Fee	\$ 4.55	4.55	\$ 4.55	\$ -	0.0%
Publications Fee	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	0.0%
Shuttle Bus Fee	1.00	1.20	1.20	-	0.0%
Information Technology Fee	10.25	10.15	10.15	-	0.0%
Intercollegiate Athletic Fee	18.00	18.00	18.00	-	0.0%
Grant in Aid	22.37	22.37	22.37	-	0.0%
Health Service & Counseling Fee	13.00	12.90	12.90	-	0.0%
MLK Jr. University Union Fee	25.20	24.94	24.94	-	0.0%
Lantz-O'Brien Fee	11.75	11.75	11.75	-	0.0%
Campus Improvement Fee	16.23	16.06	16.06	-	0.0%
Textbook Rental Fee	8.75	8.75	8.75	-	0.0%
Student Recreation Center Fee	8.25	8.66	8.66	-	0.0%
Student Legal Service Fee	<u>0.45</u>	<u>0.47</u>	<u>0.47</u>	-	<u>0.0%</u>
	\$ 140.80	\$ 140.80	\$ 140.80	\$ -	0.0%
Graduate Student Activity Fee (per semester)	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.00</u>	<u>3.00</u>	\$ -	<u>0.0%</u>

**There are no proposed changes in the fees charged to students in on campus programs.**

## G. 2026-2027 Student Fees

### Mandatory Fees for Programs Delivered On-line

#### Fees Charged By Credit Hours

	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<b>Proposed FY2027</b>	
				<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Extended Learning Fee	\$ 74.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 74.00	\$ -	0.0%
Information Technology Fee	4.00	6.00	6.00	-	0.0%
Campus Improvement Fee	6.00	6.00	6.00	-	0.0%
Textbook Rental Fee	<u>8.75</u>	<u>8.75</u>	<u>8.75</u>	-	<u>0.0%</u>
	\$ 94.75	\$ 94.75	\$ 94.75	-	0.0%

**There are no proposed changes in the fees charged to students in on line programs.**

### Special Fees

#### Fees Charged By Semester

	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<b>Proposed FY2027</b>	
				<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Student Insurance	\$ 120.00	\$120.00	\$ 120.00	\$ -	0.0%

- Student Insurance is mandatory for all student athletes but may be waived by non-athletes.

**There are no proposed changes in special fees.**

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed student fee adjustments.**

## Action Item H. 2026-2027 Housing & Dining Rate

### HOUSING RATES

#### RESIDENCE HALLS & GREEK COURT- 2026-2027 Academic Year Rates (Effective Fall Semester 2026)

Per semester rate based on double occupancy

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	
10 Meal Plan Option 10 Dining Center Meals per Week plus \$200 Dining Dollars per Semester plus	\$5,713	\$285	\$5,998	(Rm \$4,020/Bd \$1,978)
14 Meal Plan Option 14 Dining Center Meals per Week plus \$200 Dining Dollars per Semester plus	\$6,087	\$304	\$6,391	(Rm \$4,020/Bd \$2,371)
All Access Meal Plan Option 55 Dining Center Meals per Week plus \$200 Dining Dollars per Semester plus	\$6,510	\$325	\$6,835	(Rm \$4,020/Bd \$2,815)

The Meal Plan Option permits each student with a board plan to use a specified number of Dining Dollars for any of the following: 1) Purchases at the Food Court within the University Union; 2) Purchases at our residence hall convenience center; 3) Purchases at Java B&B in the University Union; 4) Meals for a guest in any Dining Center when accompanied by the student; 5) Additional meals for the student in any Dining Center.

<b>Adjusted Usage Charges</b>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Double Room as Single (per Semester)	\$1,100	\$150	\$1,250
Deluxe Double (per Semester)	\$650	\$50	\$700
Triple as a Double (Lawson/Andrews)	\$900	\$50	\$950

<b>Summer Room and Board</b>	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
2027 Summer - 4 week - Single Room	\$1,221	\$61	\$1,282
2027 Summer - 4 week - Double Room	\$977	\$49	\$1,026
2027 Summer - 6 week - Single Room	\$1,831	\$92	\$1,923
2027 Summer - 6 week - Double Room	\$1,464	\$73	\$1,537
2027 Summer - 8 week - Single Room	\$2,441	\$122	\$2,563
2027 Summer - 8 week - Double Room	\$1,948	\$97	\$2,045

NOTE: 10 Meal Plan Option is the only option offered during Summer Sessions

**Action Item H. 2026-2027 Housing & Dining Rate**

**HOUSING RATES(Cont.)**

**UNIVERSITY APARTMENTS (Monthly rates will be effective August 1, 2026)**

<b>1) MONTHS:</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Efficiency Apartment	\$5,548	\$194	\$5,742
1 Bedroom Apartment	\$5,824	\$291	\$6,115
<b>PER MONTH:</b>			
Efficiency Apartment	\$,555	\$19	\$574
1 Bedroom Apartment	\$,582	\$29	\$611

**UNIVERSITY COURT - 2026-2027 Academic Year Rates Effective August 1, 2026)**

	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, No Balcony	\$2,948	\$103	\$3,051
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Balcony	\$3,127	\$109	\$3,236
2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, No Balcony	\$3,173	\$111	\$3,284
2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, Balcony	\$3,286	\$115	\$3,401
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, No Balcony	\$3,407	\$119	\$3,526
Studio	\$2,792	\$98	\$2,890

<b>Adjusted Usage Charges-per semester</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
Two Bedroom Apartment as Single - this change would be effective fall 2026	\$1,500	\$,50	\$1,550

**Summer 2027 (Effective May 1, 2027)**

<b>Monthly Rate per person based on double occupancy</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, No Balcony	\$557	\$19	\$576
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Balcony	\$595	\$21	\$616
2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, No Balcony	\$589	\$21	\$610
2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, Balcony	\$610	\$21	\$631
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, No Balcony	\$557	\$19	\$576
Studio	\$558	\$20	\$578

-\$100 will be added to the base rate to cover electricity costs for short term leases to save the student from having to set up an Ameren account for a very short amount of time. Other utilities are already covered in this way.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the room and board rates for FY27.**

## **Action Item I. Academic Affairs Restructuring**

### **Realignment of the Division of Academic Affairs**

The University proposes a restructuring that consolidates the academic landscape from four colleges to three, combines selected departments, and renames specific units.

#### **PROCESS**

The reorganization is based on the framework presented in Spring 2025 by President Gatrell and former Provost Hendrickson. Consistent with the core values of shared governance, this plan was developed using a collaborative process with stakeholders and campus leaders. This plan is based on unit-level proposals, as well as faculty proposals, submitted in November 2025. The proposals were generated independently by members of the campus community and the result of multiple discussions with faculty, chairs, and deans. Additionally, the Faculty Senate hosted a Fall 2025 Faculty Forum on reorganization. A total of 21 proposals from programs and colleagues were received, reviewed, and considered for possible implementation. The proposals were reviewed by all Deans and feedback was provided in early December. On December 9, 2025, a stakeholder group comprised of the 18 members including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, chairs, faculty, and administrators from all four colleges participated in a review and workshop session facilitated by President Gatrell at CENCERE. At the stakeholder session, consensus was reached that a three-college model was appropriate given current finances and the rationale for reorganization presented in Spring 2025.

As the plan developed, individual and small group discussions occurred with potentially impacted units over the fall semester—and following the stakeholder session in December 2025 and January 2026.

Based on discussions with the Provost Advisory Group that included all associate deans and a review of a preliminary draft proposal in January, substantive adjustments were made related to nomenclature and the scope of the Executive Director for Educator Preparation, Licensure & Assessment. Like the former associate dean role, the more focused Executive Director position will report to the dean, have institution wide oversight associated with pre-service teacher education programs, and serve as the University's primary ISBE liaison.

Key elements of the proposal also incorporate feedback from accrediting bodies including NASM (Music), NASAD (Art + Design), and AAM (Tarble Museum of Art).

#### **SUMMARY**

- Combine the College of Education and College of Health & Human Services to create the College of Education, Health & Human Services (CEHHS)
- Merge the counseling and higher education with human services, as well as social work, to create a unified School of Human Development in CEHHS
- Create a School of Education in CEHHS by merging educational leadership, special education, and teaching, learning, & foundations programs
- Merge World Languages and English departments to create the School of English and World Languages in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS)
- Move the Economics program and faculty from CLAS and to the Lumpkin College's School of Business
- Merge Theatre with Communication & Journalism to create the School of Communication, Journalism & Theatre in CLAS

## **Action Item I. Academic Affairs Restructuring**

- Elevate the departments of Art & Design and Music to schools based on feedback from external accrediting organizations in CLAS
- Move the reporting line of the Tarble Museum of Arts from the CLAS Dean's Office to the School of Art & Design
- Merge political science and philosophy to create the Department of Political Science & Philosophy in CLAS
- Create the School of Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics in CLAS

The reorganization reduces the number of academic colleges from four to three and the total number of departments and schools from 27 to 20. The colleges and departments are presented below:

### **College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS)**

Department of Biology  
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
School of English & World Languages  
School of Communication, Journalism & Theatre  
School of Music  
School of Art + Design (w/Tarble Museum of Art)  
Department of Psychology  
Department of Political Science & Philosophy  
Department of Geology & Geography  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology  
Department of History  
School of Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Science & Physics

### **Lumpkin College of Business & Technology (LCBT)**

School of Business (including Economics)  
School of Technology

### **College of Education, Health & Human Services (CEHHS)**

School of Education  
Department of Public Health & Nutrition  
Department of Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation  
Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences  
School of Human Development  
Lumpkin School of Nursing

The reorganization would be effective July 1, 2026. The University has begun the process of appointing provisional chairs for the new or merged departments to ensure unit leadership is in place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Similarly, the Academic Affairs and Business Affairs are working to collaboratively implement necessary adjustments to budgets.

## **Action Item J. 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations**

### 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations

Approval of the Board is requested for the awarding of tenure to the following individuals effective with the 2026-2027 academic year:

1. Dr. Kelly Best, Assistant Professor, School of Technology
2. Dr. Lynne Cameron, Assistant Professor, Communication Disorders and Sciences
3. Dr. Danessa Carter, Assistant Professor, Counseling and Higher Education
4. Dr. Eden Effert-Fanta, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
5. Dr. Jacy Ghist, Assistant Professor, Nursing
6. Dr. Nora Heist, Assistant Professor, School of Communication and Journalism
7. Dr. Jill Rennels-Hutti, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Services
8. Dr. Hyunsun Kim-Hahm, Assistant Professor, School of Business
9. Dr. JungSu Oh, Assistant Professor, Psychology
10. Dr. Bradley Olson, Assistant Professor, Art and Design
11. Dr. Elizabeth Tacke, Assistant Professor, English
12. Dr. Laurel Teller, Assistant Professor, Communication Disorders and Sciences

**It is requested that the Board of Trustees approve the above tenure recommendations effective with the 2026-2027 academic year.**

## **Action Item J. 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations**

Tenure is a cornerstone of the academy. Tenure is awarded in an academic department and connotes a relationship of continuing commitment between the University and the faculty member including continuous employment at the University until resignation, retirement, layoff, or termination for adequate cause.

The Board of Trustees confers tenure upon the recommendation of the President based on a comprehensive evaluation process. In order to qualify for tenure consideration, a faculty member must complete a probationary period, generally six years, and demonstrate successively progressive achievement and effectiveness in three areas of evaluation: 1) teaching/performance of primary duties; 2) research/creative activities; and 3) service. Among the three areas of evaluation, teaching/performance of primary duties is given the most consideration.

Procedures for the evaluation of tenured and tenure-track faculty are contained in the University's collective bargaining agreement with the faculty union. Faculty are evaluated annually for retention during the probationary period culminating in a tenure evaluation, ordinarily in the sixth probationary year.

At the time of application for tenure, faculty members prepare an extensive dossier describing and documenting their achievements and effectiveness in the three areas of evaluation. The tenure evaluation involves independent reviews of the dossiers by a faculty department personnel committee, the department chair, the dean, and a university personnel committee. The review at each level of evaluation includes a recommendation. Evaluation recommendations are reviewed in the Office of the Provost in consultation with the President, and tenure recommendations are subsequently made to the Board of Trustees by the President.

Each recommended tenure applicant has met the required evaluation criteria for tenure and the educational requirement for tenure in their respective departments. While not part of the recommended Board action, each recommended tenure applicant not already promoted to the rank of associate professor or professor, and who is eligible for promotion, has also been adjudged worthy of promotion to the rank of associate professor.

At the time of initial employment by the University or subsequent thereto, an administrative employee may be granted tenure by the Board upon the recommendation of the President in

## Action Item J. 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations

consideration of recommendations by the appropriate department, the Dean, the Provost, and the President and approved by the Board.

Brief summaries of each individual recommended for tenure follow:

**Kelly Best** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is a faculty member in the School of Technology. Dr. Best has presented at conferences, seminars, and at campus events. She has received internal grants and external funding, including a federal government grant that received substantial funding. Dr. Best has served as a program reviewer for four conferences. She has served as an advisor to a registered student organization, on the board of the Charleston Community Early Learning Center, and on a PhD dissertation committee.

**Lynne Cameron** (Ph.D., Rush University) is a faculty member in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. Dr. Cameron has presented at six national conferences and co-authored an article published in *Teaching and Learning in Communication Sciences and Disorders* that received an Editor's Choice Award. She has served with professional organizations in her discipline, including as current vice-president for professional affairs for the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Dr. Cameron has served on department and university committees. She has maintained her licensure in Speech-Language Pathology.

**Danessa Carter** (Ph.D., Northern Illinois University) is a faculty member in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education. Dr. Carter has presented at nine state conferences, mentored students with their research, served on the editorial board of an academic journal, and received internal grants. An external grant received from the Lumpkin Foundation secured substantial funding. Dr. Carter served as a co-advisor to an honor society. She has maintained her professional counseling license and continues to practice in the field at a local center.

**Eden Effert-Fanta** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Effert-Fanta has published three research articles, one magazine article, and received internal and external grants. Her graduate students have completed presentations, received external funding, and EIU awards. Dr. Effert-Fanta has judged posters and presentations for four meetings, reviewed manuscripts for academic journals, and reviewed chapters for a textbook. She holds an appointment as a Research Affiliate with the Prairie Research Institute.

**Jacy Ghast** (DNP, Northern Kentucky University) is a faculty member in the School of Nursing. Dr. Ghast has presented at three conferences and received internal grants and external funding.

## **Action Item J. 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations**

Her leadership in the community includes service on the boards of the Jasper County Health Board; Christian Education Board, and the Nurse Residency Advisory Board, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. In 2024 Dr. Ghasst received the “40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders Award” and in 2023 was named an IBHE Nursing fellow.

**Nora Heist** (Ph.D., University of Maryland) is a faculty member in the School of Communication and Journalism. Dr. Heist has published a peer-reviewed chapter, presented at national conferences, co-chaired conference panels, acted as a reviewer for national conferences, and facilitated three FDIC workshops. In 2024 she received a DWF Collaborative Redesign Initiative Grant. Dr. Heist was appointed by Governor Pritzker as the public university faculty member on the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She was named the 2024-25 Faculty Laureate.

**Jill Rennels-Hutti** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is a faculty member in the Department of Human Services and holds an appointment as Associate Dean in the College of Health and Human Services. Additionally, Dr. Hutti has taught courses in her home department, served as Interim/Acting Department Chair for Human Services, and served on numerous college and university committees, including the campus space committee. She has taken on the role of curriculum committee liaison. Dr. Hutti has a research article under review and submitted numerous grant applications to multiple funding agencies.

**Hyunsun Kim-Hahm** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is a faculty member in the School of Business. Dr. Kim-Hahm has presented at four national conferences and published two peer-reviewed articles with another paper accepted for publication. She has served as an advisor to a registered student organization and has been a member of several department, college, and university committees. Dr. Kim-Hahm has acted as a reviewer for two professional journals.

**JungSu Oh** (Ph.D., University of Georgia) is a faculty member in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Oh has placed seven papers in academic journals; presented at ten international, national, and regional conferences; served on a journal editorial board, and acted as a reviewer for two national conferences. Dr. Oh has served on university committees and as a faculty advisor for a registered student organization. In 2025 he was awarded the Student's Distinguished EIU Faculty Award of Excellence.

**Bradley Olson** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is a faculty member in the Department of Art and Design. Dr. Olson has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, presented at state and national conferences, led webinars, and served as a guest lecturer. His creative works include three music videos. Dr. Olson has served as faculty advisor to a registered student organization

## **Action Item J. 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations**

and held appointments on Tarble Arts Center Advisory Board. He has coordinated numerous outreach events, notably LOVE the Arts high school art events.

**Elizabeth Tacke** (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is a faculty member in the Department of English. Dr. Tacke has published a book chapter, authored an article for a peer-reviewed journal, and given 16 conference presentations, invited lectures, and workshop facilitations. A manuscript has been accepted by a university press with publication in 2027. She has served as a manuscript reviewer. Dr. Tacke has served on the Danville Correctional Advisory Committee and has been recognized with the James & Wanda Johnson Award for Prison Training Supports.

**Laurel Teller** (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) is a faculty member in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. Dr. Teller has made five presentations at international, national and state conferences and published four journal articles, one of which received an Editor's Award. She has served on department and university committees and led the CDS bilingual journal club. Dr. Teller has contributed to her discipline by acting as reviewer for both an academic journal and national convention as well as holding appointments with the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

## Action Item K. Follett Spirit Store – MLK, Jr. University Union Bookstore Operations

### Follett Higher Education Group, LLC, Agreement Approval

<b>Contract Item:</b>	Concessionaire Agreement to operate University Bookstore/Spirit Store
<b>Description / Explanation:</b>	Approval is requested to enter into a concessionaire agreement to allow Follett Higher Education Group, LLC to operate the EIU campus bookstore and accompanying website. The scope of this contract is for Apparel, spirit items and other related products in the MLK Jr. Union building and does not include the EIU textbook rental program.
<b>Term:</b>	The term of the agreement is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031
<b>Revenue:</b>	This is a concessionaire agreement. Vendor will remit commission payments to EIU to operate the retail store.
<b>Recommended Vendor:</b>	Follett Higher Education Group, LLC.
<b>Summary of Proposals:</b>	Request for Information (RFI) EIUMDB2505 was conducted in accordance with 30 ILCS 500. 5 vendors submitted proposals 3 vendors were selected and provided oral presentations
<b>Related Funds:</b>	Funds earned as a part of this agreement will be deposited into Auxiliaries Facilities System Funds.

**It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the University to enter into this Concessionaire Agreement.**

## **Action Item: L. Annual Meeting – Election of Officers**

The April meeting is considered the annual meeting for the EIU Board of Trustees. In accordance with Illinois Statute (110 ILCS 665/10-25) and the EIU Board of Trustees Bylaws, officers for the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees are elected annually.

The following Officers will be elected for the one-year terms:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Member Pro Tem

Laura McLaughlin, General Counsel, will conduct the secret ballot elections for the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Member Pro Tem positions.

## V. Information Items

### A. President's Report

- IBHE: EHSI Grant – The EIU Project – Dr. Suzie Park

### B. Reports from Constituencies

- Faculty Senate – Jeff Stowell

**Information Item C. Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999**

**Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999 and Exempt Purchases**

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Bids</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CORE Construction	O'Brien Stadium Repairs	(A)	\$459,725.00
Cengage Learning	Textbooks	(B)	\$300,000.00
McGraw-Hill Education	Textbooks	(C)	\$300,000.00
Pearson Education	Textbooks	(D)	\$300,000.00
Air Charter Service of Delaware	Charter flights for Football	(E)	\$188,812.48
Macmillan Holdings	Textbooks	(F)	\$150,000.00
WW Norton & Co.	Textbooks	(G)	\$150,000.00
Nevco Sports LLC	Video Boards – McAfee	(H)	\$130,954.99
Sage Publications	Textbooks	(I)	\$110,000.00
John Wiley & Sons	Textbooks	(J)	\$100,000.00
MBS Textbook Exchange	Textbooks	(K)	\$100,000.00

- (A) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC1708; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (B) IPHEC Contract #2303TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (C) IPHEC Contract #2311TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (D) IPHEC Contract #2313GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (E) IPHEC Contract #2143; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (F) IPHEC Contract #2309TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (G) IPHEC Contract #2317TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (H) IPHEC Contract #2315GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (I) IPHEC Contract #2400LBM; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (J) IPHEC Contract #2306TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (K) IPHEC Contract #2310TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

## Information Item D. FY2026 Deposit and Investment Report

Eastern Illinois University  
Deposit and Investment Report  
For the Quarter Ending March 31, 2026

**Operating Funds Investment Performance:**

	Quarterly	Year to Date
Average Daily Cash Balance	\$ (2,293,987.45)	\$ (2,027,876.94)
Average Daily Invested Balance	<u>114,241,932.41</u>	<u>104,687,948.10</u>
Net Average Daily Balance	<u>\$ 111,947,944.96</u>	<u>\$ 102,660,071.16</u>
Total Interest Earned on Investments	<u>\$ 1,064,737.99</u>	<u>\$ 3,215,195.78</u>
Percentage of Net Average Daily Balance Invested	<u>102.05%</u>	<u>101.98%</u>
Annualized Average Yield	<u>3.75%</u>	<u>4.09%</u>
Benchmark - 90 Day Treasury Bil	<u>3.60%</u>	<u>3.82%</u>

**Summary of Investments:**

EIU invests primarily in the Illinois Funds. The Illinois Funds consist primarily of repurchase agreements, commercial paper and money market funds. EIU investments may also include U.S. Treasury Notes, Government Agencies (e.g., Federal Home Loan Bank, FNMA, etc), Money Market Funds, Depository Accounts and Commercial Paper. Earnings rates for the quarter ranged from 3.76% to 3.89%

**University/Foundation/Alumni/Agency General Ledger Cash by Major Category:**

Local Accounts/Athletics/Student Governed Funds/Reserves	\$ 23,093,757.36
Student Insurance Fund/Departmental Equipment Reserves	14,479,349.65
Alumni/Foundation Funds Held by the University	20,746,797.75
Construction Funds/Capital Projects	15,720,110.35
Income Fund Tuition	20,888,056.09
Gifts with Donor Restrictions for Departments	5,424,060.99
Housing/Student Life Operating Funds	3,604,908.46
Student Loan/Work Study Funds	692,693.11
Research and Grant Funds	(184,169.68)
Parking/Lounge Operating Funds	771,035.64
Funds Held for Clubs/Organizations	218,177.51
Scholarships Receivable	7,408,258.85
General Revenue Funds Due From the State of Illinois	(5,492,562.76)
Total Cash Balance March 31, 2026	<u>\$ 107,370,473.32</u>

## E. Public Comment

## Information Item F. University Highlights

### **EIU Board of Trustees Meeting -- University Highlights (SUMMARY)**

***Prepared in advance of EIU's April 16, 2026 BOT meeting***

#### **From January 7 to April 2, 2026**

These are summary highlights. A full list of news items is always available at [eiu.edu/media](http://eiu.edu/media).

**January 7**—EIU celebrates its 2024-25 ACA recipients

**January 8**—EIU placement rates rank highest among State universities

**January 14**—Illinois Supreme Court Appoints EIU Alum Pirtle to Commission on Professionalism

**January 15**—The Tarble at EIU Offers Viewpoints: 25 Years of Art + Design at the Tarble January 23

**January 16**—EIU's Doudna Fine Arts Center Kicks Off Spring Semester with Unique Events

**January 27**—EIU President Jay Gatrell delivers EIU's spring update

**January 29**—EIU reports Spring 2026 enrollment momentum in priority growth areas aligned with Plan 2028

**February 2**—EIU announces Shakir Islamic Perspectives Initiative at Booth Library

**February 2**—EIU Alum Shermann "Dilla" Thomas to present on Chicago's Urban History Feb. 5

**February 2**—EIU to celebrate faculty authors at Spring 2026 Authors@EIU events at Booth Library

**February 5**—EIU announces February 2026 Performances at the Doudna Fine Arts Center

**February 9**—EIU events and activities for week of February 9 through February 15, 2026

**February 12**—EIU Graduate School Alumna Brooke Wilson Wins MAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Award in Humanities

**February 16**—EIU Children's Literature Symposium to present public events February 25, 26

**February 16**—EIU Alumni Association seeks Distinguished Senior Award nominations & applications

**March 5**—EIU alum Dr. Angie Codron a finalist for 2026 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership

**March 11**—EIU's Hello Dali improv comedy troupe sets its sights on silly shenanigans

**March 11**—EIU professor, administrator wins prestigious teaching award in science

**March 18**—EIU's Booth Library accepting submissions for University's 2026 Comic Fest

**March 18**—EIU professor earns Outstanding Faculty Commitment to Student Success Award

**March 25**—EIU to host EIU Night Out at Gabby Goat in Effingham April 30

**March 26**—Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library to host Authors@EIU event April 9

**March 27**—Eastern Illinois University earns 2026-2027 Military Friendly Schools® Silver Designation

**March 27**—Charleston, Illinois named "Best College Town in Illinois," highlighting EIU's enduring impact

**April 1**—WEIU-TV Newswatch Wins Mid America Emmys

## Information Item F. University Highlights Cont.

### EIU Board of Trustees Meeting – Snapshot of Positive Media Coverage (SUMMARY)

*Prepared in advance of EIU's April 16, 2026 BOT meeting*

#### From January 7 to April 2, 2026

A sample summary of positive or impactful news headlines\* gathered from an online tool (headlines from within the above-stated date range):

- **January 27 – smilepolitely.com -- Eastern Illinois University hosts Lions in Winter festival**  
*...on Saturday, January 31, Eastern Illinois University will hold its annual Lions in Winter Literary Festival, inviting the general public to attend various events to celebrate all things reading and writing.*
- **March 29 – effinghamradio.com -- EIU Hosting EIU Night Out At Gabby Goat In Effingham April 30**  
*Eastern Illinois University is encouraging all EIU Panthers in the Effingham area to sign up for an April 30 event, EIU Night Out in Effingham at the Gabby Goat, as the University hosts EIU alumni, advocates, friends and supporters to a fulfilling evening of connection, conversation, and Panther pride.*
- **January 27 – WCIA.com -- EIU discusses college merger, campus improvements**  
*This decision mirrors similar models at other institutions [and] will keep all of the university's existing programs and degree offerings. There are infrastructure improvements that have been recently installed or are coming soon to campus. This includes: New fiber loop, Thomas Hall remodel, Pemberton Hall Welcome Center, Integrated Sciences Building*
- **March 26 – dailyeasternnews.com -- New EIU beach volleyball facility in the works**  
*Eastern is working to build a new facility that head coach Ryan Millar says puts Eastern on the same level as other beach volleyball programs. The facility, located at Linder Sports Complex just southeast of campus, will feature fine white sand so deep that Millar says it feels like playing in California. The project is a joint effort between EIU and the city of Charleston.*
- **March 25 – dailyeasternnews.com -- EIU begins network upgrades over spring break, Wi-Fi over summer**  
*Eastern Illinois University has started the process of upgrading its network and Wi-Fi...the new Wi-Fi will be able to run significantly faster and can account for more devices connected to the Wi-Fi.*
- **March 27 – worldatlas.com -- The Best College Town In Illinois**  
*One of the most recognizable college communities in downstate Illinois, Charleston has a strong case as one of the state's best college towns thanks to the long presence of Eastern Illinois University. EIU was founded in 1895, and that history still shapes Charleston's rhythm, from Panther athletics and campus performances to the steady flow of students through downtown.*
- **January 28 – effinghamradio.com – EIU President Jay Gatrell Delivers EIU's Spring Update**

## Information Item F. University Highlights Cont.

*An assembly of Eastern Illinois University students, faculty and staff gathered this morning to hear EIU President Jay Gatrell deliver the University's annual spring update. Speaking to a crowd in Dvorak Concert Hall in EIU's Doudna Fine Arts Center, Gatrell offered updates and insight about a variety of EIU and higher education topics.*

### **Other**

- **Various dates, various sources: EIU students earn spot on Fall 2025 Dean's List**  
*EIU's media distribution agent assists in creating personalized releases for students' hometown media organizations, resulting in variety of EIU students being recognized for earning a spot on EIU's Fall 2025 dean's list.*

*\*EIU receives a significant amount of media coverage on the success of its Athletics teams and the achievements of its student-athletes; those items are not wholly represented on the above list but are available at [eiupanthers.com](http://eiupanthers.com).*

*NOTE: EIU is achieving additional targeted regional/hometown placements for individual student-specific achievements that will not always appear on this list due to space limitations.*

G. Other Matters

**VI. Adjournment**