

EIU Annuitants Association Chapter Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2012

- I. **Welcome:** President Jayne Ozier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed all attendees, and invited Terry Weidner to relate an amusing story. Dr. Weidner complied. Attendees responded with gales of laughter.

- II. **Announcements:**
 - A. Nancy Page (Office of Philanthropy) solicited additional volunteers to serve two to ten hours per month at the Neal Welcome Center as **annuitant ambassadors**. Persons interested in serving in that capacity may contact Nancy at **581-3314** or ncpage@eiu.edu.
 - B. Jayne Ozier announced that the certificate commemorating EIUAA's fortieth birthday which Representative Chapin rose presented to EIUAA at the July 14, 2011 Chapter meeting has been framed and mounted on the wall at the Neal Welcome Center.

- III. **Presentation by Dr. Bill Perry, President, EIU:** In his update on the state of the University President Perry made the following points, among others:
 - A. At the Board of Trustees meeting on January 20, 2012, a draft of the University's Strategic Plan was presented for a "first reading." The document identified the following six strategic priorities: Academic Excellence; Global Competition and Changing Demographics; Embracing Technologies; Campus and Community Life; Financial Sustainability; and Marketing and Communication.
 - B. A proposal to create a new interdisciplinary **Geographic Information Science Center** was approved by the Board at its January 20 meeting. The Center will host core Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing courses for students pursuing an interdisciplinary minor, a graduate degree, and/or Geographic Information Science Certification.
 - C. Beginning in FY 2013, the IBHE's recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning appropriations to public institutions of higher education will include recommended allocations based upon "performance metrics." Those metrics will "focus on the . . . goal of increasing completion of college courses, certificates, and degrees" and will take into consideration the "cost" of earning a degree at a given state institution in relation to the "number" of degrees conferred by that institution. President Perry added that the current proposal calls for withholding .5% of the higher education appropriation and awarding the withheld funds to those institutions which subsequently are deemed to have excelled in the performance metrics.
 - D. Concerning Eastern's current capital campaign, President Parry praised the efforts of Nancy Page and her colleagues in the Office of Philanthropy and indicated that he "expects to celebrate success next fall."

- E. Since its completion in October 2011, Eastern's Renewable Energy Center has won favorable attention from the media and the public. The REC's startup and takedown phases are now being evaluated and adjusted.
 - F. EIU's David Raybin, Professor of English, has been named **Illinois Professor of the Year** by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Also nominated for the award were EIU's Linda Ghent (Economics) and Jeff Stowell (Psychology).
 - G. President Perry's responses to questions asked by audience members following his formal presentation included the following: (1) re: pedestrian and automobile traffic on 4th Street, the posted 20 m.p.h. speed limit and the recently installed stop signs at pedestrian crosswalks have slowed vehicular traffic and will increase the safety of pedestrians. Installation of "in-pavement lighting" on 4th Street is also under consideration; (2) re: expected enrollment at Eastern in Fall 2012, the University has enlisted the aid of a consulting firm to help strengthen Eastern's recruiting efforts. The firm has made a number of suggestions which are being implemented. President Perry expects that size of our Fall 2012 freshman and transfer class will be "about what it was this year."
- IV. Jayne Ozier thanked President Perry for his presentation and thanked audience members for their attendance.
- V. **Reminders:**
- A. Gail Mason announced that the **1st Buzzard Lab School Reunion** is scheduled for **August 3 and 4**. Faculty members as well as persons who attended Buzzard Lab School will be invited to attend.
 - B. Jayne Ozier announced that the next EIUAA Chapter meeting will be the **ANNUAL LUNCHEON on THURSDAY, APRIL 12, at St. Charles Borromeo's Parish Hall**. Doors will open at 11:30. Niemerg's will again be our caterer, and Al Horney and the Four Voices will provide the entertainment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank McCormick, Secretary