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# NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

## COOLEY SELECTED AS EIU'S NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AFFAIRS

CHARLESTON – Jeffrey Cooley, acting vice president for business affairs at Eastern Illinois University, has been selected to assume the role on a permanent basis.

The appointment needs only EIU Board of Trustee approval to become official. That approval is expected to be given June 11 during the board's next quarterly meeting.

"I am very pleased to have been selected as the vice president for business affairs at Eastern Illinois University," Cooley said. "I truly appreciate the confidence (EIU President) Dr. (Carol) Surles and the Search Committee have in my ability to perform the duties of this important position."

Cooley, 48, has served as acting vice president for business affairs since Aug. 16, 1999. He assumed the duties of Morgan R. Olsen, who accepted the job of vice president for business and finance at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

As VPBA, Cooley will oversee the budget office, business services, risk and financial management, environmental health and safety, facilities planning and management, information technology services, employee and labor relations and human resources.

"I look forward to working with the Business Affairs staff to improve the level of service we

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**E**astern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

provide to the university community. Our immediate challenge will be to begin the process of filling the numerous vacant positions we have in the area, including those of director in both facilities planning and management and information technology services. With the new TEDE (Technology Enhanced and Delivered Education) initiative and the current level of construction activity we have on campus, these positions are critical to ongoing operations.”

Surles expressed her pleasure at Cooley's acceptance of his appointment.

“Mr. Cooley is clearly the right person for the VPBA position at this juncture in Eastern's history,” Surles said. “His enthusiasm for the position is clearly a testimonial to his deep and abiding dedication and love for Eastern and for this state.

“I was always aware that a candidate with Jeff's skill sets could go anywhere. We are fortunate that he has kept his focus right here, especially during many challenges. During his interim leadership, the Business Affairs unit has undertaken projects too numerous to list. Already, he has served the university with distinction.

“He is truly a talented and ethical leader, and I have enjoyed working with him over the past months. Jeff will succeed in whatever he does; he is both talented and positive, and that is a winning combination.”

Cooley, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Eastern, was appointed assistant vice president for business affairs in December 1997, following a national search. Prior to that appointment, he was Eastern's director of internal auditing for 14 years.

He is a certified public accountant, internal auditor and fraud examiner. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Illinois CPA Society, the Central and National Associations of College and University Business Officers and the Institute of Internal Auditors.