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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5981 - Home: (217) 348-7553

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN PLANS STUDY OF GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

CHARLESTON, IL.--Assurance that Eastern Illinois University will continue to provide high quality graduate education and research is the goal of a campus-wide study now underway.

The study of graduate education and research follows an in-depth study of undergraduate education completed last fall.

According to Garret DeRuiter, art professor and graduate coordinator of the art program who heads the graduate study steering committee, "The study is an attempt to focus on the unique nature of graduate education and research and to formulate recommendations for improving these areas."

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"It is envisioned that the end product will provide historic reference of our programs, tell us what we have now, and give us insight and direction on where we will/should be going in the future and how we might best get there," he added.

DeRuiter said the first step in initiating the study has been the formation of a steering committee composed of faculty and administrators from across campus.

Dr. Robert Kindrick, provost and vice president for academic affairs, is requesting the overall study. He said, "Just as the world is constantly changing, programs should be changing. Viable problems today may be of less value in the future. The frequent review of higher education's goal of equipping young men and women to function productively in this rapidly changing world is vital."

Steering committee members include Dr. Andrea Bonnicksen, political science; Dr. Scott Crawford, physical education; Dr. Ruth Dow, home economics; Dr. Dean Dudley, accountancy, data processing and finance; Dr. Kipp Kruse, zoology; Dr. Jon Laible, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Ron Leathers, assistant dean of the College of Education; Dr. Bill Mosley from the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Paul Overton, chair of the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance.

DeRuiter said the steering committee has met twice this semester and plans subsequent meetings to discuss the approach for the review. "I would envision four to five meetings this fall to organize the structure of the study and then initiating it in the spring," he said.

It is planned that each of the steering committee members serve as chairpersons of sub-committees specifically assigned to examine critical elements of graduate education and research.

Although the sub-committees have yet to be determined, DeRuiter said the areas the committee members are likely to investigate include structure and governance of the Graduate School; students/graduates; faculty; curriculum; academic policies and practices; recruitment, admissions and retention; support services; and financial resources.

"A major issue we will examine is the mission and goal of each graduate program and how it relates to the mission of the University. In terms of research, we will look at what the role of research is to students and faculty and how it fits into the role and scope of Eastern," DeRuiter said.

"Although we may be able to pull some information from the undergraduate study, the study of graduate education and research is independent of that study," he added.

DeRuiter anticipates that the information-gathering phase of the committees' work will be completed by Fall 1990. The report will then be written and edited. The final report is expected to be completed by Jan. 1, 1991, he said.

DeRuiter said faculty, staff, students and alumni are encouraged to share their ideas about improving Eastern's graduate program and research.