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NEWS RELEASE

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U. of I. Tuition to Restore Faculty and Courses; Tuition Guarantee Ready for New Students

URBANA—University of Illinois President James J. Stukel today recommended new tuition levels at each of the University's three campuses for the next academic year with an aim to restore academic programs and faculty competitiveness affected by tight budgets in recent years. The University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Plan for new students also was announced.

The U. of I. Board of Trustees is scheduled to take up the recommendations for the 2004-2005 academic year at its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 13 in Urbana.

If approved, current students will see their base tuition rise by 8 percent at the Chicago (UIC), Springfield (UIS) and Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campuses next year. The base tuition per semester for continuing undergraduate students at UIC who are Illinois residents will go up by \$196 to \$2,645; at UIS it will increase by \$138 to \$1,863; and at UIUC it will increase by \$223 to \$3,007, if the recommendations are adopted.

"Students and their families can be assured we will strategically invest these new tuition dollars directly into our core mission of teaching and providing academic excellence," Stukel said.

"The tuition revenue will allow us to restore 480 courses as well as some 80 faculty, 160 teaching assistant and 40 instructor positions. It provides resources to retain outstanding faculty who are being lured away by our peer universities and allows us to improve faculty-to-student ratios in classrooms," Stukel said.

Stukel estimated the University should be able to replace approximately one-third of the teaching positions and half the course offerings eliminated this year because of budget reallocations. The New York-based College Board in its annual report on college costs last month stated, "Tuition and fee increases at public institutions are significantly affected by shrinking state appropriations."

"We heard loud-and-clear from our students and their families this fall: 'Restore the quality and opportunity this great institution has provided for generations,'" Stukel said. "With these new tuition resources, we can provide courses our students need to graduate and the quality academic programs they value."

The new tuition levels will net the University \$25 million, or nearly one-fifth of the \$132 million loss in state revenues that are the primary source of funding for instruction, according to Chester S. Gardner, vice president for academic affairs. "Since 1990 educational expenses at the University of Illinois have increased roughly at the rate of inflation. Unfortunately, the overall economy has not permitted state appropriations for our operating budget to keep pace and so tuition has assumed a greater share of the financial responsibility," Gardner said. "Given all the demands on state resources during this economic crisis, we expect that trend to continue."

Stukel noted the University has undertaken a substantial reduction in administrative spending—a targeted 25 percent cut over three years—and those savings of an estimated \$15

million will be allocated to instruction. "Our administration is becoming leaner, more efficient and more productive, but no amount of internal reallocation can replace the disproportionate loss of state revenue," Stukel said.

University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Plan

In addition to recommended tuition rates for the next academic year for continuing students, Stukel also announced guidelines and tuition for each of the campuses under the University of Illinois Guaranteed Tuition Plan, which sets a student's tuition for four years. The plan implements a new state law mandating public universities to charge new undergraduate students the same tuition for four consecutive years beginning in 2004.

"The Guaranteed Tuition Plan will provide predictability for students and their families in financing a university education," Stukel said. The U. of I. guaranteed tuition goes into effect next summer for incoming undergraduate students.

To set the guaranteed tuition rate for the first class of students covered by the new law, each campus will take its base tuition and provide **a one-time adjustment** that averaged over four years should provide sufficient revenue to cover annual increases in educational costs.

The guaranteed tuition for new students is 7.4 percent higher than the non-guaranteed tuition for continuing students, under the recommendation to the Board. The tuition would remain constant for these students for four years, until the summer of 2008.

The guaranteed tuition plan rates at UIC will be \$2,841 per semester; at UIS, \$2,001; and at UIUC, \$3,230 per semester for the next four years, under the recommendation. It is expected that in subsequent years, the guaranteed tuition for each incoming class of undergraduates would change by approximately the same percentage as the non-guaranteed tuition.

The University last June raised tuition for the current academic year by 5 percent, the lowest of any Illinois public university and about one-third the national average for tuition increases this year. According to the College Board, tuition-and-fees at four-year public universities increased an average of 14.1 percent for the 2003-04 academic year.

The Board of Trustees will also receive recommendations for estimated student fees and room-and-board at the three campuses for next year.

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Reporters/Editors/News Directors: Agenda items covering tuition, student fees and room and board will be available a few days before the November Board of Trustees meeting. For additional information, contact the Office for University Relations at 312-996-3772 (Chicago) or 217-333-6400 (Urbana-Champaign).