It is with deep regret that I share the news that Professor and Dean Emeritus James D. Norris passed away on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

Dr. Norris’s distinguished service to NIU and to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1979-2000 included the creation of several new academic units, such as the Department of Computer Science, the Women’s Studies program, the Division of Statistics, and the Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault. He championed new doctoral programs in biological, mathematical, and geological sciences, always with an eye toward enhancing NIU’s reputation as a comprehensive teaching and research university. Dr. Norris’ leadership ability and integrity led his colleagues to select him to serve as Executive Secretary of the University Council and then as President of the Faculty Senate.

Above all else, Dr. Norris was a devoted faculty member. That perspective guided all of his decisions, informed his leadership style, and earned him the reputation as a fair, collegial, and transparent administrator and colleague.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Link to NIU biography of James D. Norris
http://www.niu.edu/clas/awards/awards_2011/honorees/norris.shtml