Can you please provide an update about financial aid with respect to the amount of aid available and the lack of distribution to seniors this year with a focus on grants?

Need-based financial aid is awarded based on timeliness of application, financial need and fund availability. Pre-determined packaging and awarding strategies consider these factors in addition to a student’s academic level at the university. The Financial Aid Office awards funds to eligible students until allocated funds have been exhausted. At that time, the office continues to process aid applications, however, eligibility for funds is limited to Federal Pell Grants and Federal Stafford Loans as neither of these programs have allocation limitations.

There were no changes to the packaging and awarding strategies this year. What is different this year is that the allocated funds were exhausted before all eligible students received funds.

At this time the Financial Aid Office is in the process of reconciling award accounts to recover funds from students not attending this year and/or students enrolling part time rather than full time. Should additional funds be available after the reconciliation process is complete, these funds will be awarded to eligible students.

How are scholarships developed, advertised and distributed?

Eastern offers several types of scholarships.

In addition to the distinction of working closely with faculty involved in scholarly activities, students admitted to Eastern Connecticut State University’s competitive Honors Program receive full in-state tuition scholarships. These scholarships, which are advertised at the Honors Program web page and on printed materials, are awarded to students selected for admission into the Honors Program and are renewable when the student makes satisfactory progress in completion of the requirements for the Honors Program. Eastern offers scholarships for each class. These are funded with dollars provided by the Connecticut State University System and the CSU Board of Trustees.

Students may be awarded merit-based scholarships upon admission to Eastern based primarily on academic performance. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years provided requirements related to GPA and on campus housing status are met. Information regarding the merit-based scholarships is made available to incoming students through the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management. The merit-based scholarships are funded with dollars provided by the Connecticut State University System, the CSU Board of Trustees, and state dollars.

Students can apply for competitive scholarships offered through the Office of Institutional Advancement and the ECSU Foundation, Inc. The ECSU Foundation, Inc. Competitive Scholarship awards are based on merit and in many cases, unmet financial need. The Competitive Scholarship process is coordinated by the Office of Institutional Advancement.
Application information and forms are available at: [http://www.easternct.edu/depts/ia/development/scholarship_forms.htm](http://www.easternct.edu/depts/ia/development/scholarship_forms.htm). The Office of Financial Aid has a link for scholarships that takes students to the ECSU Foundation, Inc. Competitive Scholarship page. They are advertised through email to all students as well as other means each year. They are funded by donations to the ECSU Foundation.

We have seen in various sciences, math, business, and other classes where professors struggle with language and students have a difficult time understanding them. What can be done to assist?

Professors are expected to be able to communicate effectively with students, which in some cases might mean that they use printed handouts, writing on the board, or visual aids to accompany their verbal instruction. If it is very difficult to understand an instructor, students may ask the instructor to consider offering material in various formats instead of providing it only verbally.

After talking to the instructor, if there is no change, it might help to talk to the department chair to explain the difficulty posed by the faculty member's language skill or accent. Again, what would be most helpful is to offer some thoughts on how the instructor could make adjustments (such as writing notes on the board, providing handouts, using overhead slides) that would make it easier to learn. Even though the department chair will have ideas for changes that could be made, since he/she is not observing the class, students may have even better ideas. The chair can then discuss the student concerns and suggestions with the faculty member.

At the end of every course, every semester, students should be given the opportunity to fill out an "opinion survey" that asks questions about the quality of the course and the quality of instruction. Different departments use different forms for this process, but in almost all cases there will be some questions that ask a student to assign a numerical score and then an opportunity to write comments. This would be the opportunity for students to write about the difficulties posed by an instructor's language or any other aspects of the instructor's teaching. Generally, a faculty member will want to know if students are struggling to learn in a class and will make adjustments to help students learn.

Can student workers be scheduled more than 12 hours a week?

Generally, on-campus employment by a student is limited to 12 hours a week. However, in limited special circumstances some students are approved to work up to 16 hours per week. Student employees funded by grants can work up to 20 hours per week.
**Do students have control over adding more classes to a major?**

Students are required to take a minimum number of courses in a major but can take extra courses in that major if they wish. In terms of courses that are offered for a major, departments offer the courses that they think offer the best preparation to students. They may consider adding additional courses in response to student requests. To do so the department would need to have faculty members with appropriate expertise. At Eastern, as a most universities, the curriculum is determined by the faculty members. They make recommendations for adding courses based on trends in their discipline and in the workplace and on resource availability. Students who would like to study a topic that is not covered in existing classes should talk to the appropriate dean or department chairperson.

**There was talk about four credit classes, is Eastern still looking into that?**

Eastern already has some 4 credit classes. The number of 4 credit classes may be increased if faculty members feel that additional content and class time should be added to existing 3 credit classes. Adding 4 credit classes would likely require additional faculty resources and might require changing whole academic programs, so they will be added only after careful consideration.

**How might we prevent underage drinking?**

The issue of underage drinking has concerned officials from secondary and higher education for decades. It is a national issue and one that still has not been resolved. At Eastern we approach it from two perspectives.

1. The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Education works to plan and implement programs and strategies to affect positive changes in the consumption patterns of our students. This effort has produced good results as our data indicated less binge drinking today than two years ago. This office continues to expand efforts by developing program alternatives for our students and is working with local officials to be involved with students living off campus.

2. The Office of Judicial Affairs, Housing and Residential Life and University Police work together in training of staff and in enforcement of policies to change behavior. Here again our data indicates this effort is making a positive difference.

We know there is more work to be done and are committed to that task and we welcome your suggestions.
Is there a future for Eastern to be a wet campus? Perhaps even a wet building?

It is unlikely that we would pursue that option especially when we consider that less than 20 percent of students living on campus are 21 or older.

What is the town gown opinion of Windham Street Apartments residents?

We have made great strides in this area over the past two years working with local officials, the local police department, and local residents. Our efforts to address off-campus behavior whenever it occurs, has made a real difference. We continue to improve these negative relationships and have restored confidence in the local community that we are serious about this issue.

Can we get more Windham Street Apartments programming space? Low Rise apartments 101 and 103 would be perfect locations.

This has been an issue for some time and one that we address whenever we build a new residence hall. Unfortunately, the demand for housing is so high that taking apartments off-line at this time would not be the best solution. Additionally, the space in those apartments and the fire code capacity for them would not be appropriate for programming space.

Referring to school spirit...can we get a football team? What do students need to do to have a football team on campus?

Establishing a football team is a huge and expensive undertaking as specifications for facilities and numbers of coaches and staff are all dictated by NCAA policies. Student fees would have to be increased by hundreds of dollars per student to fund a football program. The cost of supporting a football team is in the millions of dollars.

Another equally important issue is the federal requirement of Title IX to maintain balance in the number of male and female athletes. Adding a football team would make Eastern out of compliance with this mandate. We would have to either eliminate existing male sports or add new female sports to regain compliance, both of which are expensive alternatives.

"Warriors"...a blue cat? Can the symbol or name be changed?

Eastern athletic teams have been known as the “Warriors” for many decades. In the 1990s, U.S. universities were asked by the NCAA to discontinue use of Native American imagery in their logos/mascots. Many changed their names/graphic identity entirely (i.e. the Marquette Warriors became the Marquette Golden Eagles). Eastern wanted to keep the “Warrior” name, but changed its graphic identity from a Native American chieftain to the blue cat. Over the ensuing years, feedback from athletes, coaches, students, and other members of the campus community has been consistent that the “blue cat” is not looked upon as a “warrior,” nor has it been well received or adopted by student athletes and others. Based on input from the Student Athlete
Advisory Committee, the University is currently working with a design firm to create a more suitable athletic symbol that maintains the spirit and strength of the “Warrior” name. The new concept will be unveiled Spring 2009.

**Will there ever be a wireless network covering the entire campus?**

Currently wireless service is located in the Student Center, Webb Hall, and the Library, and installation is underway in the Science Building. The next phase will be the residence halls in spring ’09. When this is completed, ITS will survey students for the next phase of deployment. It is our goal to have a completely wireless campus.

**Why there is a fee for printing now and how it can make the campus a “greener” place?**

Eastern is one of over 500 universities to sign the President's Climate Challenge making a commitment to operate in a more sustainable manner, including reducing our emissions of Green House Gases (GHG), the leading cause of global warming. In recent years, the amount of printing has increased at a rate disproportionately larger than the increase in students. The process for manufacturing paper and ink are both significant contributors to GHG emission. By having students pay for excess printing, more than 200 pages, they become aware of the real cost of printing to the University. It has, in fact, reduced the amount of printing this semester by 42 percent, saving the University money, saving trees, reducing pollution and helping to save the planet. We allocate money to every student on their card for printing purposes.

**Are students charged $250 for the technology fee?**

Yes, students are charged $250 a year for the technology fee. We use this fund to lease or purchase new computers and related equipment in computer labs and residence halls as well as that of other technology for students.

**Are students being reimbursed for the Internet because we did not have it for a month?**

No. The main cause for the Internet failure was from students not following network protocols.

**Can you please provide and update on the Eastern Alert System including plans for the classrooms?**

In addition to the text provided, classroom phones have been reprogrammed to allow outside calls. Faculty have been instructed to answer classroom phones if they ring, in the event of an emergency. There may be times when phones ring with a wrong number; however, these incidents have been minimal.
Parking on campus has never been this bad, what is your plan to help us?

The contractor has been selected for the second parking garage which will add approximately 800 spaces. The anticipation is that construction will start in the spring if the state’s Bond Commission allocates the financing over the winter months. The project will take about ten months for completion of construction.

Record enrollment and the loss of Lot B have contributed to the parking issues experienced this year. The timing of the Police facility’s construction in Lot B has required the imposition of temporary parking restrictions and greater reliance on the ball field parking lot to accommodate overflow parking during daytime hours.

We have streamlined the shuttle route to get students to and from the ball field more quickly. There are always 150 or more spaces at the ball field. Many students still wait for a spot in the Library Lot (sometimes for 30 minutes or more) when they could have taken the shuttle from the ball field in less time. Both commuters and residents now use the ball field lot. We also hope to reclaim some parking in Lot B as the police building project continues.

Parking on South Campus is scarce and safety is a concern with walking back from north campus or the baseball field. How can you make this better?

The safest way to cross campus anywhere is to use the shuttle. The shuttle service operates between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. on most days. While the shuttle service is sometimes criticized for being inconvenient, over 18,300 student riders have used the service since the start of classes in September 2008.

The student patrol works evenings from Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. and on Friday from 7 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Student patrol workers operate under the supervisor of the Eastern Connecticut State University Police Department. Between escort assignments, they walk the campus paying particular attention to alert unsafe and/or suspicious conditions. They also regularly check the blue phones to make sure the phones and lights are operating properly.

Shuttle bus operators also carry police radios. Police officers provide the same service after the student patrol escort and shuttle service go off duty. Students are encouraged to contact the Police Department at X55310 to request an escort.

We have also surveyed campus and on-street lighting in the south campus area. Additional lights are being installed in the Noble Lot. Any street light problems are reported to CL&P.

Why do commuters get to park on every floor of the parking garage?

We made every effort to provide a fair and equitable parking solution under the circumstances. Lot B had approximately 155 parking spaces. Occum residents usually accounted for about 60 of
those spaces and commuters had the balance (about 95 spaces). When that lot was closed, we knew we had to accommodate both residents and commuters.

Very few commuters take parking spaces on the first three floors. At 6 a.m., the first three garage floors are completely full with resident parking. The fourth floor was reserved for Commuters Only (188 spaces). Remember that commuter spaces turn over regularly which is why we can accommodate so many commuters. Each commuter space can be used from two to four times each day. The fourth floor of the garage is needed to handle the volume and turnover of commuter parking.

When parking is at a premium (Tuesdays create the heaviest parking demand), both residents and commuters are encouraged to park in the ball field lot and use the shuttle buses to reach the main campus. Roughly 25 to 100 students are using the lot on a daily basis and taking advantage of the shuttle.

We have been given 200 pages free for printing, but professors ask students to print things. This is something that we can’t really control and that consumes a lot of our 200 pages. Why can’t professors just provide handouts?

Eastern is interested in reducing the quantity of paper that is used for copying and printing. The Center for Instructional Technology provides technology and support to enable faculty to post handouts online for students to read rather than hand out print copies. The CIT also provides resources to make it possible for faculty members to accept online submissions of papers and assignments from students. This should help to reduce the cost to students for copying and printing and also decrease the use of paper, energy, and supplies.

When are we going to put cameras in all parking lots?

Camera installation in parking lots are expensive, so priority has been given to the largest lots which offer the best options for surveying major portions of the lots. Lighting in the lots is thought to be the best deterrent to criminal behavior. Please contact the Police Department at X5310 to report any malfunctioning lights or areas needing additional lighting. As resources become available we will add cameras.

What is the future of Windham Street Apartments?

The eventual plan is to replace Low Rise with a new, modern residence hall. This is included in the University’s master Facilities Plan. The project is not expected to begin until about 2013.

How will we maintain housing for 560+ residents when they are demolished?

After the Fine Arts Instructional Center is complete, Shafer Hall will be converted into a large residence hall. Low Rise cannot be demolished until this happens. The Facilities Master Plan calls for the building of new residence halls before existing halls are taken off line or demolished.
What is the future of the Technical High School?

Currently, the Connecticut Technical High School System has scheduled the renovation of Windham Technical High School for sometime in the next five years. There is an alternate plan being proposed by Willimantic's First Selectperson, Jean deSmet, which would replace the existing school with a new high-tech, environmentally friendly school better equipped to prepare tomorrow's Green Collar workforce. This school might be relocated to another property elsewhere in Windham, making the property next door available to the University for future expansion. However, with the current economic difficulties being experienced by the state, the project may be postponed for a number of years.

When might we see groundbreaking on the new garage on what is now the softball field?

The garage construction project awaits Bond Commission approval. If it is voted for funding over the winter months, the anticipation is that construction would start next spring.

Will the new police station have parking for Occum residents?

There will be some limited parking for non-police business adjacent to the police facility. Once Garage II is built, more Occum residents will be able to park in the existing garage.

With more residential halls on the South side of campus, will there be another dining hall, or would Hurley become larger?

The Master Plan calls for expansion of Hurley Hall. We looked at the cost of duplicating services in the south part of campus, but had to conclude that a separate dining facility there would be cost prohibitive. However we can revisit this option in the future.

What is being done with the academic half of Winthrop? Can it be used for anything else?

Currently the Connecticut Library Consortium, the Psychology Department, and Facilities have spaces in the academic side of Winthrop. For the next semester, we will be creating a seminar room for academic use.

What is the future of Winthrop? Could it be used as a coffee/bistro/billiards hang out?

In the Master Plan, Winthrop is identified for eventual demolition. It will be replaced with a new modern residence hall.

What can we do to enhance recycling initiatives on campus in the residence halls?

In the newer residence halls we provide a recycling room. The idea is that students will use the room to recycle and that they will take the recycled materials outside to the larger dumpsters. Our problem is that expanding the recycling program will most likely require additional staff.
Unfortunately, that is unlikely in the near future, given the state of the economy and current budget restrictions.

**When will the Sports Center be renovated like the Student Center was?**

The design funds for the Sports Center Renovation are included in phase III of the 2020 plan. That means that the earliest the design could be completed is 2015. Construction funds have yet to be committed, but we will be requesting them as appropriate through the capital budgeting process.