You asked the President!

During the fall semester President Núñez visited with the residents in each of the six upper class residence halls. During those visits you were engaged in great dialogue and asked many excellent questions. As promised, here are the questions you asked and the University’s answers.

There is not enough advertisement on campus for events. Could we have events on a calendar with possibly every event included on it?

Advertising of events has not been an easy service to provide because students have different opinions of what is best for them in terms of delivery method and frequency. What works for some students might not work for others. To that end, many methods are in place including the University’s electronic events calendar located here: http://calendar.easternct.edu/CalendarNOW.aspx?fromdate=11/1/2010&todate=11/30/2010&display=Month&more=1/1/0001

The Eastern website is hard to maneuver; is there a web focus group?

The Office of University Relations is charged with management of the website. They welcome suggestions and can be contacted directly at Osborne@easternct.edu.

Why is Eastern a dry campus?

Eastern is not a dry campus as alcohol is allowed in certain buildings and for certain events. The residence halls are buildings where it is not allowed and that is because approximately 80% of students living in them are under the legal drinking age of twenty one.

Do students get priority points for study abroad?

They currently do not.

When will we have gender neutral housing and bathrooms?

The CSUS housing directors are working on recommendations for gender neutral housing which should be presented for consideration in the spring of 2011. Gender neutral bathrooms would be part of the proposal for residence halls.
There are problems with ECSU students being too loud and disrespectful at parties off campus and locals complaining, but what about the drunk locals that are grabbing at students at Shafer?

The University is working hard to educate and encourage our students to be more respectful when they are in the local community and we continually try to prepare students to be safe by understanding what precautions to take including, but not limited to the danger of walking alone.

Where does arrest adjudication apply?

Students can be arrested on campus by Eastern PD and off-campus by Willimantic PD depending where the alleged infraction occurred. The University will typically adjudicate for on campus violations of the code of conduct and will on occasion do so for off-campus behavior when it can draw a direct line from the off-campus behavior to the health and safety of the campus.

How do you propose to improve our standing with the town of Willimantic?

Overall 95+% of our students are in good standing with the town and do more good for the local economy with community engagement/service hours and dollars spent at local businesses. We work through the Town Gown Committee and a newly formed University/Town coalition to continually improve our standing. Student Government Association has also been involved with this issue via its RU One campaign.

Are we a dry campus for the State funding?

No, our decision to not allow alcohol in the residence halls is not based on State funding. Eastern is not a dry campus as alcohol is allowed in certain buildings and for certain events. The residence halls are buildings where it is not allowed and that is because approximately 80% of students living in them are under the legal drinking age of twenty one.

Are we going to see improvements in the weight room in the Sports Center?

Over the years The University, Student Government Association and the University’s Foundation have been involved in such improvements. It will not be completely remedied until the building renovation and addition project is completed via the University Campus Facilities Master Plan. In the meantime, we will make improvements in the weight room and are planning some for Spring 2011.
There is no heat in the hallway at the Best Western, what can be done?

The hallways do have ceiling heating vents that are currently working. The problem was that students were leaving windows open. Now that they have been closed the hallways are comfortable.

How soon will Best Western transfer students know where they are going next semester for housing?

They are informed by December 1, 2010.

Is there any chance of a tennis team at ECSU?

Varsity sports take time and resources to develop. Club sports can be established easier and if successful after several years can become varsity sports if they do not upset the balance of Title IX requirements.

Can a student be part time and be involved in a sport?

Yes, in a club sport. No, in a varsity sport.

Why are Occum residents forced to have a meal plan?

Occum residents have been required to be enrollees in a meal plan for at least the last 15 years. The policy has been that Occum’s resident population was to be one of the core groups in the meal plan program as it was developed. A related reason was that it had been deliberately built immediately adjacent to Hurley Hall, the singular student dining facility for meal plan enrollees. In recognition of its meal plan participation, the University’s policy and practice has been to set Occum Hall’s occupancy rates notably lower than the occupancy rates of the other six upper class residence halls/complexes. Occum residents can choose any of the more expensive meal plans they desire, but the required minimum is the “Occum 120 Meal Plan,” a partial plan that is priced $950/semester less than the rate for the full “Silver Meal Plan.”

Why do food places close early and not accommodate students who have jobs, etc.?

The Library Café is open until 11 p.m. three days of the week. Unfortunately, there is so little traffic at night that there is talk about closing even that location earlier. The cost to keep a location open later is significant. With the Off-Campus Merchant Program, the University felt that was a better alternative for late night food purchases than the cost of keeping an on-campus location open. Many of the Off-Campus Merchants deliver.
If Hurley hours are extended to 8:30 p.m., would a swipe for Hurley be equivalent to a credit amount for café?

Because pricing for retail food products has to be determined differently from calculation of Hurley meal plans, there can be no “swap equivalency.” Dining dollars are provided in each meal plan to permit some supplemental purchases at the Food Court, the Library Café, and the Shafer Closet Café.

Will it be possible for the Student Center Food Court to be open until 10:30 p.m. because of the students who have night classes?

Because the Library Café is the closest retail food outlet to the center of the campus’ academic core, it serves as the late-night food location for fast foods, snacks, and dorm convenience items. The hours are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Wednesday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>5:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
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Why are students not allowed to take out meals on weekends?

Meals-to-Go was instituted to address the overcrowding at Hurley during certain periods of the weekdays. There is no such overcrowding on the weekends.

Is the parking garage going to be open soon?

It is scheduled to be completed in early January. Once it is turned over to the University, it will be opened almost immediately thereafter, well in advance of the start of spring semester.

When will the Fine Arts building be built?

Design will start next semester, and it will take approximately 18 months. Bidding and construction will take two years and will be dependent upon when the construction funds are available. The earliest we would see the building completed would be 3½ - 4½ years.

Are any new residence hall buildings planned?

Yes - Shafer Hall will be renovated into a residence hall after the Fine Arts Instructional Center opens and there will be a replacement residence hall for Burnap and Crandall constructed in the general area between Occum Hall and the Campus Police building. Winthrop will be replaced with a new residence hall.
**Why is the new parking garage located near the original garage?**

To allow for providing green space and a pedestrian environment in the center of campus as most campuses are moving to having parking on the perimeter and safe pedestrian walkways in the core of the campus.

**Why has the Student Center’s floor been replaced?**

There was too much moisture in the concrete below the original floor tile, so some floor areas were becoming unsafe due to warping and buckling. A water barrier had to be installed to prevent a recurrence of the problems.

**Why did we change the ATM Company?**

The ATM contract had to be bid competitively so the new contract could be in compliance with state law. The Savings Institute was chosen based on the evaluation criteria including the fact it provided the least expensive charge per transaction than proposed by other ATM providers.

**What is the renovation of the alumni house all about?**

The Office of Alumni Affairs will move to 333 Prospect Street when the renovation of the interior is complete. The staff will have offices on the second floor, and there will be spacious areas for Alumni events on the main floor. Some handicapped parking will be provided on the property’s northern edge.

**When will the High Rise elevators be replaced?**

The upgrade of the High Rise elevator is a project listed in our capital budget plan submitted to the System Office. The University is awaiting notification from the System Office on when funds will be made available from an equipment financing fund.

**Can there be more washers and dryers in WSA?**

The University has put as many washers and dryers as can be accommodated in WSA.

**If EXPRE$$ Card money is not used, it should roll over for the following year. Why does that not happen?**

EXPRE$$ Card money DOES roll over year to year.
Why on the Clock Tower is four o’clock IIII not IV?

The architect who designed the Clock Tower and selected the “III” was born in Italy, and therefore is a Roman. III is just as acceptable and interchangeable as the IV. The architect just happened to pick the IIII.

Why don’t the dryers take quarters in WSA?

The dryers should take quarters. Card Services will look into this and have it resolved.

Are the washing and drying machines free at Best Western?

No. Coin only—no EXPRE$$ Card.

Can we have more lights in Low Rise?

After an assessment of the exterior lighting conditions during evening hours, Facilities determined that the following lights should be added to the 500 building. In addition, Facilities is going to replace lenses in some of the lights.

When will you replace the carpets in WSA?

Housing and Facilities staff meet each year to develop a list for priority projects. Carpeting in the Low Rise is one of the projects under priority consideration.

Does the University exterminate for bugs in Low Rise?

Yes, if students request the Housing office to put in a work order.

When do we turn the heat on in residence halls for the fall semester?

October 15th.

What is the Sports Center construction about?

The steel that holds up the precast panels along the building’s exterior edges had rusted and became less than ideal. The steel and the precast panel replacements will be completed by early January.
There are too many commuter spots and no one wants to park at the baseball field. Can we get more non-commuter spots?

The opening of the new parking garage in January will resolve this issue.

How will the spots in the new parking garage be divided?

The new garage has 805 parking spaces and will accommodate the campus’ parking needs. The plan for the new garage is to have faculty/staff and south residential parking on floors 1-3 as well as for guests and parking for special events. The fourth floor will be reserved for commuters. North campus residents will be required to continue using the old garage. Notification on the full details of this parking plan will be forwarded to the campus community prior to the opening of the garage.

If Eastern has a deficit, can you dip into ECSU Foundation funds?

The Foundation operates as a separate entity. It does support the University in many projects and in awarding several hundred thousand dollars in scholarships to students each year.

Could the Best Western shuttle times be more accurate? Can we get Public Safety to be more cooperative with the BW? The dispatcher always says the shuttle is on the way even when it isn’t.

The Best Western is on the regular shuttle route so it hits that particular stop as frequently as all other stops. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, ADA transportations and other factors on campus can and often do affect shuttle arrival. We are planning to address this matter with a Shuttle App so everyone will know where the shuttles are at any given time.

Will there ever be additional parking on south campus?

The long range master plan includes three smaller garages in the south part of campus. One will be where the Knight House parking lot is now, one below the Shafer parking lot, and one where the Low Rise apartments are after they are demolished.

Will there ever be another dining hall on south campus?

At this time, there is no plan to build a separate dining hall on south campus due to the expense implications for construction of such a specialized facility.
Could we have half and half for meal plan to outside sources for more options such as the Library Café or Student Center?

The advantageous pricing of meal plans is based on the fact that mass feeding for our 2,100 enrollees can be efficiently managed at one dining facility (Hurley Hall). Retail sales are priced very differently, since menu selections for the most part are made-to-order for each patron.

**How does the book buy-back system work?**

The Bookstore buys books back year round but the best opportunity is during finals week. The staff tries their best to get as many options as possible by then. If Eastern is using the book the next semester, the store pays 50% of what the student paid, regardless if it is new or used. If Eastern is not planning to use it, students get whatever the book wholesaler is paying.

**Why has the library closing hour changed to 11:00 p.m. from 2:00 a.m.?**

Due to financial considerations library hours were reduced in Fall 2010. The information below shows that Eastern’s library is still open more hours than any other public university library in the state except UConn’s. The change in hours was made after tracking gate counts to ensure that the library is open during the hours when students are most in need of the services and resources that it offers.

Library hour Information:

**EASTERN (87 hours)**
- Monday-Thursday—8:00 am-11:00 pm
- Friday—8:00 am-6:00 pm
- Saturday—10:00 am-6:00 pm
- Sunday—2:00 pm-11:00 pm

**CENTRAL (83.75 hours)**
- Monday-Thursday—8:00 am-10:45 pm
- Friday—8:00 am-4:45 pm
- Saturday—9:00 am-3:45 pm
- Sunday—2:00 pm-9:45 pm

**WESTERN-Haas Library (84 hours)**
- Monday-Thursday—8:00 am-11:00 pm
- Friday—8:00 am-4:00 pm
- Saturday—10:00 am-6:00 pm
- Sunday—2:00 pm-10:00 pm

**WESTERN-Young Library (65 hours)**
- Monday-Thursday—9:00 am-9:00 pm
- Friday—9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Saturday—11:00 am-4:00 pm
- Sunday—2:00 pm-7:00 pm
Why don’t we have Columbus Day off?

The academic calendar is constructed to ensure that the required number of days and hours of instruction are included in each semester. If classes are not held on Columbus Day the semester will have to begin either a day earlier or end a day later. Students and faculty have indicated a preference for maintaining classes on Columbus Day rather than adjusting either the beginning or end of the semester but if there is a strong sentiment among students that this should be changed it would be
possible to do so. Any change in the academic calendar requires agreement across the four CSU campuses.

I want to take an online summer course at a different university, how do I find out if they transfer credits here?

There is a course equivalency tool available at: 
http://nutmeg.easternct.edu/registrar/transfer_course.htm as well as a form and instructions for requesting approval to take a course outside Eastern.

The degree evaluation is really good, but a lot of people don’t know about it. Can you change the title to “Degree Requirements” or something better instead of “Degree Evaluation”?

It is difficult to find the right term to use. The term “degree requirements” is used in many places to list the requirements that all students must satisfy to obtain an Eastern degree or to satisfy major requirements. The registrar and director of advising will be consulted about other terms that may make it more obvious to students what the degree evaluation tool does.

When will Eastern know its rankings from this current academic year?
There are many rankings. USNWR rankings are made available in the early fall of each year.

Can we increase financial aid dollars available to students?

Financial aid dollars available for students come from several sources: federal grants, state grants, private scholarships, competitive grants and institutional funds. While we cannot increase the availability of federal or state aid, the ECSU Foundation works very hard to get additional private scholarships for students and the university has shifted dollars from other purposes to student aid to increase the allocation of institutional funds. The university has obtained several grants that have provided financial aid dollars for students over the past three years. Eastern will continue to allocate as many dollars as possible to financial aid and is committed to providing support and guidance to students who pursue funds from external sources.

Why don’t all professors have to give midterm grades?

While many faculty do give midterm grades some of them feel that they do not have adequate information on student learning and performance to assign grades by the middle of the semester. There is no contractual requirement that midterm grades be assigned.
Can you participate in sports when you study abroad?

Students are able to play intramural or recreational sports at a university outside the U.S. If there is a concern about NCAA eligibility to play at Eastern after playing for a university in another country it would be best for the student to seek guidance from the NCAA, a coach, or the athletic director.

Is financial aid support available for study abroad students?

The costs of studying abroad can be built into a student’s Cost of Attendance which will, in turn, affect the student’s eligibility for need-based aid. In addition, there are scholarships available from Eastern this year. Information about these scholarships was recently posted on the Student Portal. Students who want more information should contact David Pellegrini in the Performing Arts Department. He is the chairperson of the committee that is awarding these scholarships. There are several private organizations that provide support for students to study abroad. More information is available at http://www.studyabroad.com/scholarships.aspx.

For an Eastern Scholarship do you have to complete multiple applications?

No, one application is required for each year (we offer the scholarships in November for the following September academic year) and it is located on the ECSU Foundation site: http://www.easternct.edu/advancement/development/scholarship_forms.htm

The students do not select the scholarships as this is determined by the foundation office. Students should be reminded that the scholarships are not all ‘need based” so all students with a minimum of 24 earned credits and a minimum 2.75 GPA may apply.

Can we apply every year?

Yes, a student who meets the above criteria may apply each year (generally sophomore and junior years) regardless if they did or did not receive a scholarship grant from the first application.

Can the University create more cost saving programs so students can have more funds available for financial aid and programming?

We currently have the “Eastern WorkSmart” program underway and ideas submitted over the past two years have resulted in over a million dollars in cost savings at the university. Students who have cost savings ideas that they have thought through and that demonstrate potential cost savings may submit them to the “Eastern WorkSmart” program and submit them to the Institutional Advancement Office to my attention.