Academic Affairs

1. **How will advising be improved?**
   The University Senate has created a committee that is reviewing our procedures for advising students. This committee will make recommendations over the summer. Its recommendations will be reflected in the operations of a new Center that will combine tutoring and advising services in one location that is more accessible than the current location in the student services building. *(Has been implemented)*

2. **How does scheduling for course selection work, is it by last name or is it by number of credits?**
   Scheduling for course selection is based on number of credits earned. Students with the most credits register first (seniors); first-year students go last. Within each class, students register alphabetically by last name with the starting letter changing from one semester to the next so the Z’s don’t always go last.

3. **Will resources in the library be broadened for history majors?**
   Library resources for all disciplines are constantly being broadened based on requests from faculty members and availability of funds.

4. **Why can’t the library have text books from every course for those who can’t afford to buy them?**
   The cost of purchasing textbooks with library funds for every course would be prohibitive, requiring a significant reduction in the number of books and articles that the library could purchase. Materials purchased by the library are intended to remain in the collection for many years, while (as students know) most textbooks must be replaced with a new edition every two or three years.

5. **Will there be new equipment in the science building or are we moving it from Goddard?**
   There will be some new equipment but equipment in Goddard that is still up-to-date and in good working order will be moved.

6. **Can we expand the budget to allow out-of-state students to work on campus?**
   Depending on their eligibility for financial aid, out-of-state students may be eligible for work-study positions. They are eligible for operating fund positions. There are not enough jobs, though, for all of the students who would like one.

7. **Will all majors be required to have an internship?**
   No. There is a proposal being considered that would require that all students have a significant pre-professional experience before graduation. This could take the form of an internship, student teaching, a co-op, mentored thesis research, some student employment, creative projects, etc.
8. **Will there be an expansion of majors?**
   If the question is whether existing majors will be expanded, the answer is yes — if there is student demand. If the question is whether we will add majors, the answer is maybe — if there is student demand, a fit with Eastern’s mission, and if we have or can reasonably expect to acquire the human and physical resources that would be needed to offer the major.

9. **Will there be an extended Italian language program?**
   This would depend on whether there is sufficient student demand.

10. **What is the Eastern/UCONN new nursing programs all about?**
    This program would streamline the process for a student to acquire an undergraduate degree from Eastern and complete the post-baccalaureate nursing program at UCONN. Students take a set of courses at Eastern. If they meet certain requirements, they can go right into the nursing program at UCONN. There will be seats set aside for Eastern students each year who meet the admissions requirements. The set of Eastern courses specified will ensure that our students are well-prepared for UCONN’s program.

11. **What is Eastern doing to be come a tier one school?**
    Eastern’s strategic plan calls for several initiatives that promote academic excellence while maintaining access to students from diverse academic, social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. In general these initiatives are aimed at ensuring that Eastern students are active participants in a broad range of academic and co-curricular activities. Instead of just listening to lectures and taking tests, these initiatives will require that students do hands-on work in classes and in the community, that they have pre-professional experiences, that they participate in cultural events on campus, that they travel abroad and that they are challenged to work to their potential in classes. In addition, the administration is working hard to make sure that our students and faculty have exceptional physical resources to work with.

12. **Why are most campus jobs in the work-study category?**
    Most student jobs are operating fund, not work-study.

**Student Affairs**

1. **Why is Eastern a dry campus? Will it ever change?**
   This question comes up quite often each year. Eastern has been a dry campus for nearly 20 years. Prior to this there was widespread damage to the residence halls as well as significantly increased incidences of binge drinking requiring medical attention. Also, the average age of students attending Eastern is 19.5, which means the majority of students are below the current legal drinking age limit. Although we realize that not all students drink irresponsibly, the university has made a commitment to remain alcohol free for everyone’s safety and will continue to do so in the future.
2. **What can be done to improve Safe Rides?**
   The SGA has looked into this and will be making changes for the upcoming year. For more information, you may contact them directly at 465-4451.

3. **What can be done to liven up the weekends in terms of building hours and events and activities?**
   Building hours are set by general times of use. Students who wish to have buildings open during hours other than those currently programming may indicate their request to the student center director. Also, there are a number of events and activities scheduled each day and throughout the weekends during the year. However, it is always a challenge to accommodate the particular interest of every student on campus. Students who feel the current programs and events do not appeal to them are strongly encouraged to become directly involved in program planning through their hall director, club or organization, SGA, or Campus Activity Board. You may also contact the student activities office for more ways in which you can influence the types of programs being offered on campus.

4. **Why don’t we get community service for donating blood?**
   The campus has eliminated the community service requirement for residential students. In the future, as an outcome of our strategic planning process, Eastern intends to create a “Community Engagement Center,” which will more closely link student voluntarism to the classroom. In addition to students receiving transcript documentation for their work, student volunteerism will have a curricular component and will receive more faculty supervision. The results, we believe, will be student participation based on a true sense of voluntarism; a continued level of service to the community, perhaps at an even greater depth; and a closer connection between students’ volunteer activity and their academic experience.

5. **Why can’t community service be done out of state?**
   As indicated in question 4, it was felt Eastern needed as many participants as possible to have a positive impact on the local Willimantic and greater Windham communities.

6. **Is there any hope for a football team?**
   There are no plans to establish a NCAA football team on campus at this time.

7. **Will we ever have a Greek System at Eastern?**
   There are no plans to establish Greek fraternities and/or Sororities on campus. However, students are able to establish other clubs and organizations with their peers and colleagues who share similar interests (i.e. MALES, OLAS, FEMALES, etc.)

8. **Can the Student Center be open 24 hours a day?**
   Student interests are polled routinely to determine proper hours of operation for the student center and other areas. To date, there has been no sustained interest in maintaining 24 hour service within the student center.
9. Can the sports center be more organized between intramurals and general student use?
   As you might imagine, with only one facility on campus dedicated to both intercollegiate sports and general use, scheduling can sometimes become a challenge. Nevertheless, the sports center works continuously to address the issues of general usage of its facilities. If at any time, students feel that the general use hours are not sufficient, they may contact the Director of Athletics.

10. Will there be more housing in the future?
    The campus is developing a new “master plan” which may call for the replacement of the low-rise apartments with new residence halls in 5-10 years to add additional new beds. Student representatives are members of the master planning committee and the SGA is continuously updated throughout the process.

11. Why do students need to get signed into the freshmen halls?
    We understand that this policy may be a little inconvenient; however, it is necessary to allow for the tracking of student guests in and out of the residence halls. Keep in mind that all “non-residents” must sign in and out of every hall during designated hours.

12. Could communal kitchens be set up in first-year halls by floor?
    Due to the expense as well as state and federal building codes, not all first-year residence halls can be easily converted to install kitchens in common rooms.

13. Will there be substance free housing?
    The AOD office will be piloting a substance free housing program in Noble Hall during the Fall 2008 semester.

Finance and Administration
1. When will the Fine Arts building be built?
   We hope that design funds will be available soon after July 2009. It should take 18 months to design the building, six months for review and bids, and about two years for construction.

2. Will students go in the new jail cells that are part of the new police building?
   No. The cells were designed as temporary holding cells only.

3. What should students do about wrongful parking tickets? There is inconsistency with freshman parking passes, including medical reasons.
   Information on appealing a parking ticket is on the ticket itself and also outlined in the parking regulations and campus map under “THE APPEAL PROCESS.” All freshman parking waivers go directly to the Chief of Police, who is the person that decides on the waiver’s merit. Incomplete waivers are denied. Every waiver for medical or physical therapy reasons has been granted if proper medical
documentation is submitted or if the waiver is recommended by Accessibility Services.

4. **What can be done to improve shuttle service? Can the two buses travel in opposite directions?**
   Shuttle drivers make every effort to space themselves properly. External factors (number of riders, traffic, ADA transportation, relief breaks) that the drivers have no control over sometimes cause the shuttle buses to be right behind one another. The drivers try to correct this as quickly as possible. Changing shuttle routes or directions only leads to confusion. We tried a pilot route in the fall 2006 semester and it created some problems, so we returned to the static route in spring 2007. Since routes are now more internal to the campus, we have decreased the shuttle route stop times. Due to the closing of Lot B, more students have been forced to park at the ballfield lot, so both buses now extend their routes to that lot.

5. **Can Burnap and Crandall be air conditioned?**
   During the master planning process we have evaluated whether it is more cost efficient to renovate or replace Burnap and Crandall Halls. We found that it is more appropriate to replace both halls, but the timing is dependent on the availability of construction funds in the future. If we renovate them instead, they will be air conditioned.

6. **When can we have more green space to hang around in?**
   Now that the Science Building is open, the quadrangle is much larger. The construction trailers near the Low Rise Apartments will be removed, so more green space will be restored there. When the second parking garage comes online, we will be able to eliminate several surface parking lots and provide additional green space. When the new Police Building is completed, the old police building will be demolished and green space will be provided there. We are constantly looking for ways to provide more green space, which is a major focus of the current master planning process.

7. **Can the grills and benches be put back outside Burnap and Crandall?**
   Since they were removed and the sidewalk’s overhead structure was replaced, there seems to be more appreciation that the area is open space. We will check with Housing to determine the need for benches and/or grills.

8. **Why is there flooding in areas near Goddard and Hurley?**
   The flooding in the area of Goddard and Hurley is caused by a high water table – we are looking to address the issue with additional drainage.

9. **Why are the tennis courts locked…we can’t use them?**
   The tennis courts have a combination lock on them to prevent open community use. They are opened during the day, and students can gain access to them by calling the equipment room.

10. **Can we have more health food and vegetarian options in Hurley Hall?**
The new food contractor has developed a broad selection of “healthy options.” We welcome any interested students to join the Food Committee in its next meeting in October. Anyone interested can contact stancilg@easternct.edu and he/she will be put on the list of attendees.

11. Why can’t dining dollars be used in vending machines?
Dining Dollars are meal plan-related funds. These were specifically designed to work only in food service locations and are part of the food service contract that the University has with the food service provider. CatCa$h may be used in the vending machines.

12. Why can’t we get milkshakes on campus?
Currently, we don’t have the facilities to store hard pack ice cream in the food outlets where we serve food (Library Café, Closet Café and Student Center Food Court). It could certainly be a suggestion to the food service to be served as a “pace changer” at Hurley Hall. This suggestion will be forwarded to the Good Committee.

13. How is south campus parking addressed in the master plan?
Besides the new parking garage being built next to the existing garage on the North Campus, three other “parking decks” have been recommended in the Master Plan for South Campus areas. However, no specific plan or funding is likely in the near future.

14. Can the residence halls be wireless? Will Cisco be eliminated?
The University is contracting with Charter Communications to provide a separate Internet connection for the Residence Halls. Tentatively this project is scheduled for September 2009. ITS will eliminate Cisco Clean Access (CCA) every semester once all systems are accepted onto the network and cleaned. Wireless access is being deployed to the residence halls now that CCA use is being curtailed.

15. How can we get more trash cans on campus?
The trash cans are located in areas that are easy for Willimantic Waste to get to from the road — the cost of additional pickups is the limiting factor for adding additional trash cans.

16. What other buildings are scheduled for renovation?
Media, Goddard, and the Sports Center are scheduled for renovation. In the case of the Sports Center, there is a major addition of square footage for other recreation facilities. However, these projects are scheduled subsequent to the Fine Arts project.

17. Is there going to be a breakroom in the police station, some officers do not believe there will be?
There is no breakroom listed on the building plans. The new classroom area will be used for breaks. The new Police Station will have designated interview rooms so officers will have some privacy in the classroom area for breaks.
18. Why are there no changing/shower facilities or a water cooler in the Student Center Fitness Center?
When the program for the project was developed, the students who were involved in the project preferred other program space vs. changing and shower facilities since we did not have enough money to do everything they wanted. Additionally, when we visited student centers that had changing rooms and shower facilities, we found that they were seldom used. Therefore, the consensus of the students and the Dean of Students was to forego the showers and breakrooms for other features in the building.

19. With all of the campus improvements, how can we keep the cost of attending down to an affordable level?
As at all state campuses, the state alone pays financing for new and renovated classroom buildings. Improvements to residence halls and food facilities are paid by students in the University fee payments, so they are scheduled at a pace which keeps the cost impact to students at a level consistent with the annual cost of living index.

20. Can we have a second outdoor basketball court?
We are looking for ways to provide more structured and non-structured recreation space, including basketball courts.

21. Can the Sports Center weight room be expanded?
Students are urged to visit the expanded weight room on the lower level of the Sports Center, a change that took place over the summer.

22. Will freshmen be able to park on campus when the new garage opens?
No plan is made to provide freshman (resident) parking when the second garage is completed. The garage will permit the elimination of ground parking so more green space and recreation areas can be created throughout the campus.

23. Can we please go to the bookstore and buy shirts that say “Eastern basketball”…?
The University Bookstore provides several types of sweats and t-shirts with sports-related logos. There are frequent changes in designs so please check the store for new items and special sales of emblematic wear.

24. Will there be cable TV in the halls next year?
A portion of the Charter contract allows for Cable TV in every dorm room and Internet to every pillow. The proposed package is for extended basic and HBO, and will be included in the Residence fees.

25. How will parking work next year?
The distribution of parking permits remains the same as in previous years, except that Lot B had to be closed for construction of the new police building. Three levels of the garage are general parking but the fourth level is restricted for commuters only. A portion of Lot B will be re-opened by the end of October to provide both commuters and residents with extra spaces closer to the classroom buildings and residence halls.
26. Will the road through campus become green space?
The new Master Plan proposes the elimination of the road from the Clock Tower to Webb Hall. In addition, the road between the Student Center and the residence halls will be closed. These moves will result in a pedestrian core and a perimeter road system. Funding for these long-term improvements will be determined in future capital improvement budgets as developed for the State University System.

27. Are there plans for a south campus dining hall?
There are no plans for a dining hall on south campus but we are always looking for a new space to locate the Closet Café. It may be that when the Fine Arts Building is completed and Shafer is renovated, we will be able to put a more comfortable food service facility in Shafer Hall similar to the Library Café space.

28. Are there plans to make the Hurley Hall menu more pleasing?
The goal of Food Service, in conjunction with Auxiliary Services, is to always have a distinctive menu selection for Hurley Hall as well as at the other food venues on campus. Please consider joining the Food Committee which works very closely with Food Service and Auxiliary Services to make Hurley a place students love to eat. An e-mail request to join may be sent to stancilg@easternct.edu.

29. Can food venues be open later hours?
Food Service locations on campus are open as late as business warrants. The Student Center Food Court is open during the academic year until 10:30 p.m. Currently business subsides after 7 p.m. and it is hard to justify that it stay open later. However, we are working to make a scaled-down space available in the Food Court that can be lightly staffed to accommodate those students who wish to dine until 10:30. There is also an Off-Campus Merchant program in place to take care of “late night” dining. Some of these food outlets are open until the early morning hours.

30. Will there be a weight room just for athletes?
There are no plans to have a separate varsity weight room until the major planned expansion of the Sports Center is funded.

31. Will there be a turf field for lacrosse?
In the next phase (II), the field within the track oval will be artificial turf. Scheduling for clubs, intramurals, and intercollegiate play is scheduled by Athletics.

32. What is in store for the Low-Rise and High-Rise?
In the new Master Plan, there is the priority recommendation that the major portion or all of Low-Rise be demolished and replaced with a modern residence hall.

33. What is to happen with Wood SSC renovations?
This will be determined as part of the space re-use analysis being managed by the New Space Utilization Committee.

34. How are buildings named?
The University has a Building Naming Committee.

35. **Do in-state and out-of-state students pay the same?**
   No, out-of-state residents pay a higher tuition rate and some fees that are higher.

36. **What are the plans to upgrade Internet service?**
   The Charter contract has designated a 200 mbps dedicated Internet connection for the Residence Halls. This will be separate from the Administrative production network, scheduled for fall 2009.

37. **Can we get more cameras in the residence hall lounges?**
   The campus police constantly review and consider locations for additional cameras. Contact a hall director or the Housing Office to request cameras in areas you are concerned about.

38. **Does wireless Internet work in the Student Center Café?**
   The student center wireless system is activated and monitored by ITS on a daily basis.

39. **Can the $4.25 credit that Burr Hall residents have at Shafer’s Closet Café be extended to 1 p.m. instead of the existing 11 a.m. time?**
   The credit is for breakfast hours only. Burr residents can use dining dollars or CatCa$h there, or at other food outlets during lunch and evening hours.

40. **Can parking be a privilege connected to GPA?**
   Because parking slots are limited, they have to be available throughout the day on a “first come, first served” basis.

41. **Can we get more exterior lighting on campus?**
   Police and Facilities personnel are constantly on the watch for “dark spots” that could create a safety hazard. The exterior lighting is designed to meet life safety standards. If there is a particular area that students are concerned about, please contact Facilities, and we will ensure that the levels are appropriate.

42. **Why can’t students take food out of Hurley Hall?**
   Students can take desserts, fruit, and coffee out of Hurley Hall currently. The food program at Hurley is no different from an “all you can eat” facility. These restaurants allow patrons to eat all they want at the restaurant but do not allow anyone to remove food from the premises. This is a cost factor. We work very hard to try to keep the rising cost of food service from adversely affecting our students. We have increased Dining Dollars on meal plans this year to help the students have more flexibility in going to on-campus food locations and using Dining Dollars at the Library Café, Closet Café and Student Center Food Court. Check the website at Catcard.easternct.edu to look at the meal plan options available to students.

43. **Why can’t IT staff fix our personal computers and laptops?**
There is a substantial liability in providing repair services to students. First, there always exists the possibility of a student’s project or data being lost. Additionally, a student’s machine could be lost or stolen. ITS is attempting to use a state contract to provide these services at a reasonable cost to students and is negotiating with a number of state vendors.