Windham/Eastern Community Action Network (W/E CAN)
Town Gown Committee Meeting
October 11, 2012


1. **The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.**
   - Welcome to all attendees and introductions were made.

2. **Presentation by Luis Rodríguez, Assistant Director, Center for Community Engagement (CCE).**
   - He gave an overview of some highlighted accomplishments this semester and current programs including “Puentes al Futuro/Bridges to the Future” with the Windham Middle School students.
   - A community member thanked Mr. Rodríguez and the CCE for their work with students in the community. The community member’s son is being helped with math twice a week by Eastern students and noticed an improvement in his son’s math skills who enjoys his tutoring sessions.
   - The CCE is working with faculty members to incorporate community service into their classes.
   - The CCE is targeting freshmen to volunteer at service events with the hope that community service will help them become involved with campus life and giving back to the community.
   - Last year, students completed over 7,503 hours of community service in Windham.
   - There are currently 252 students participating in weekly community service events in Windham.

3. **Updates from Angelo Simoni.**
   - He has completed multiple ride-alongs on Thursday evenings with the Willimantic Police since the beginning of the semester. The goal of the ride-alongs is to find problem areas off campus and to address them with the Police.
   - He has visited several student houses in Willimantic with Eastern administrators to speak with students about being disrespectful in the community with good results.
   - Approximately 8-10 students have been cited or arrested in the Willimantic community this semester.

4. **Community Concerns.**
   - A community member stated there was a party on September 27th on Lynwood Drive that was the worst he has seen in six years. There were over 200 kids walking the street. He was the fourth person to call the Police and did not see immediate action regarding the party. A member of the Police said they are aware of the house and the problem is being addressed.
   - The same community member brought up the issue of trash. On Friday mornings, there are cups, beer cans, broken beer bottles and other articles of trash throughout the neighborhoods close to Eastern. In areas near Shafer and Mead Halls, trash seems to be the worst because students leave their trash before leaving campus for the weekend.
- One community member stated that on-campus dances may help the issue of nothing to do on campus and encourage students not to drink. He stated that other colleges, such as Yale, have events and mixers that invite local community members as well as students. When he sees parties off campus, he sees no dancing, no music and just drinking.
- Student S. McCabe stated that there are events that happen on Thursday evenings to give students an alternative to going out and drinking which receive good attendance.
- Student T. Pastor said that he deejays at on-campus and off-campus events. There is music and dancing at off-campus events but that events on campus have little attendance and are not very enjoyable.
- A community member/landlord/realtor said that he has attended the Town Gown committee meetings since their formation and has seen a great improvement in student behavior in the neighborhoods compared to six years ago.
- Another community member stated she is happy that Eastern faculty live in the local Willimantic community and asked if there are incentives for professors to move into Willimantic.
- President Núñez said that there is an incentive program in place where faculty get a reduction in the price of the home if they live there for at least five years.
- The same community member asked if students will be raking leaves in the neighborhood. J. Konin, new Eastern Athletic Director, stated the athletes will be raking leaves again this year.
- Another community member asked if student athletes will be going to the Windham schools to play sports with students and set up camps. The middle school has lost its sports programs and the community member is working to get sports back into the schools. This could help improve the behavior and academic performance of students if they have an afterschool focus in sports.
- J. Konin said there is a “Junior Warrior” program in which student athletes go to the schools to help with sports. The student athletes can only go to the middle and elementary schools because working with students over the age of 14 presents a problem with recruiting and NCAA rules.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William McLaughlin
Eastern Student