

**W/E CAN Committee
Town-Gown
Minutes
September 13, 2007**

Present: From Eastern: Dr. Elsa Nuñez, Dean Ken Bedini, Dr. Paul Bryant, Chief Jeffrey Garewski, Lt. Derrick McBride, Kimberly Armstrong Silcox, Sultana Sayed
From Willimantic: Lt. Cliff Spinner, Dick Grillo, Amanda Penwell, Diane Bartlett, Joe Santalucia, Don Chase, Winnie Chase, Shirley Mustard, Philip Schaab-Romney, Mary Schaab-Romney, Kevin Hoxie

Dr. Nuñez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and welcomed Sultana Sayed, President of the Student Government Association at Eastern. Dr Nuñez reflected on her first year at Eastern and advised the group that Dr. Pachis and Dr. Tordenti have stepped down from their roles as Vice Presidents. Eastern is aware of the arrests of some of the students in Willimantic since the beginning of the school year. Willimantic Police share reports with Eastern Police and the Dean of Students is meeting with all of the students and has impressed upon the students the long term effects of an arrest and the consequences of subsequent arrests. Mr. Hoxie has mailed letters to the homes of the students. Mr. Chase reported that he observed Coach Hollowaty advise the players to be respectful of neighbors. Vice President Bryant also reported that students were told during Orientation about being respectful.

Ms. Bartlett shared a flyer that she had created. Dean Bedini reported that this flyer was posted in the residence halls last year and will be posted again.

Dr. Nuñez reported that the freshman class is smaller than in past years as more students are being retained. The first year class size dropped from 1,000 to 800 and the University estimates that it may be as low as 600 in a few years. This will be better for the community as it is often Freshmen who are causing the disturbances in the neighborhoods. Eastern will continue to talk to parents and students during Orientation about behavior on and off campus. Faculty in First Year Experience courses are including a community component. Dr. Bryant gave attendees his phone number.

A website is being developed where community members can obtain resources and can contact the university.

Ms. Silcox reported that over 70 students participated in walking tours of the community during Welcome Weekend. Tours went to the Mill Museum, the Garden on the Bridge, the future site of the Willimantic Whitewater Park, the Arts Collaborative, and the Victorian Homes neighborhood. The goal of this program was to familiarize the students with all that Willimantic has to offer and to give them a bit of history so they can feel that they are part of the community. The students reported that they enjoyed the walks, especially the tours offered by Dr. Horrocks of the Hill Section.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.