

To: University Community

From: BarBara M. Scott and Santos Rivera

Re: Presidential Task Force on the Millennium Student
Meeting of February 27, 2007

The Presidential Task Force on the Millennium Student held its second open meeting on February 27th. Following are concerns and recommendations that were shared at this exploratory session. The task force invites you to attend the next scheduled session on Thursday, March 15, 2007, 6:15 p.m. at El Centro, 3119 N. Pulaski.

Informational:

- 1) The task force will maintain the university's commitment to a diverse student body
- 2) Two state legislators are working with the task force: Representative David Miller and Representative Maria Antonia (Toni) Berrios
- 3) The purpose of these informational meetings is not to debate who the millennium student is or the agenda, but to obtain input from stakeholders. The following key areas were identified:
 - a. Recruiting students for success
 - b. Eliminating barriers and enhancing supports
 - c. Developing new matrices for the new student
 - d. Advocating for the new student

“Developing new matrices” refers to developing new ways to evaluate and assess student success. In order to do that, a better understanding of the goals and needs of our students is necessary and then ways to measure success against these goals.

CONCERNS

Time to Degree

- Critical and fundamental to define student success at NEIU. It was suggested that success should mean that graduating within a four-year time period should not be the only model to follow, but other time-to-degree periods better suited to the necessities of the student body of NEIU.
- Lack of funding to increase the number of courses offered by the university was raised as a concern. Students' responsibilities become even more challenging when the courses they need to take are not available.
- Weak advising on courses and requirements towards graduation.

Student Retention

- Lack of consistency with regards to advising. It was reported that students share their frustration in having to talk to different advisors regarding the same issue, which leads to students transferring to other universities.

Technology

- Concern on implementation and efficiency of new technologies.

Curriculum and Teaching

- Assessment of curriculum to ensure that is aligned with job performance.

Diversity

- Hiring of faculty and staff that represents the university student body.

Career Development

- Assessment of career success in the areas of job readiness and employment.

RECOMMENDATIONS**Time to Degree**

- Support and embrace a six year graduation (Faculty and Staff voice).

Student Retention and Advisement

- Assessing and improving ways for tracking students that leave NEIU to learn reasons why they leave.
- Assessment and enhancement of mentoring programs.
- Assessment of special programs and cohorts such Proyecto Pa'Lante, Project Success, Summer Transition Program, KCEP and ENLACE, etc., to enhance best practices.

Student Population

- Identify and develop ways to better serve the different student types at NEIU.
- Assess different student educational barriers, backgrounds and career goals.

Technology

- Continue to improve information on-line for students to have access to their academic profiles, student resources and university information.

Career Development

- Assessment and enhancement of information and preparation by academic departments for graduate school and career opportunities.
- Consideration of developing programs with student services similar to the McNair program.

General

- Recommendation to hold task force meetings at El Centro, CCICS and CTC.
- Recommendation to place suggestion boxes around the university where suggestions can be submitted.
- Continue to strengthen the Touchtone Telephone Registration System (TTRS).
- Continue to explore a negotiation with CTA to have a U-PASS program that works for NEIU students.