

To: University Community  
From: BarBara M. Scott and Santos Rivera  
Re: Presidential Task Force on the Millennium Student  
Meeting of March 15, 2007 at NEIU/El Centro

In Attendance: *Approximately 50 students, faculty, and staff from three classes -psychology, computer science, and sociology- were present.*

Introduction by Dr. BarBara Scott and Dr. Santos Rivera:

- 1) Underscored the commitment to maintaining a diverse student body
- 2) The purpose is not to debate who the millennium student is or the agenda but to obtain input from stakeholders in several areas:
  - 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
- 3) Two State legislators are working with the taskforce: David Miller and Antonia Berrios
- 4) While today's student takes longer to graduate, the expectation of policy and decision makers is that students will graduate in 4-6 years. When dollars are distributed based on these faulty assumptions, commuter universities like NEIU are at a disadvantage. The State covers only 22% of NEIU's budget. These data do not take into consideration the large number of transfer students either that account for 52% of NEIU's undergraduates. Today's students are also most often heads of households as well. Are our services responding to your needs?

## **FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES**

### **SOPHMORE STUDENTS**

Would like to study Middle Eastern culture but NEIU does not offer a program. With so many Arab students why not? Are there any plans to offer this type of program in the future?

We have to go to many offices—financial aid, advising. There is lack of communications between the offices, lack of consistency of information, lack of knowledge of what needs to be done. The lack of communication between offices all boils down to money. I will be happy to write to legislators.

### **JUNIOR STUDENT**

The school is diverse but cultural classes like African American studies are only offered during the day.

### **RETURNING ADULT STUDENT**

There are not enough sections of pre-requisites scheduled, especially for evening students.

#### STUDENT-AT-LARGE STUDENT

I am an immigrant and a US citizen. I have some professional background from outside the US. My status keeps changes between a number of programs. Each time it changes I have to present my documents to a different office and pay an additional fee. I am now a student at large. This is holding me up.

#### TRANSFER STUDENTS

Is there anything that can be done to increase State funding for NEIU?

Liberal arts classes prolong education and matriculation for students in specialized programs such as Social Work or programs where students are concentrating on a set of career skills; want to earn a degree to improve their employability and increase their worth in the job market.

There are a limited number of classes in many departments offered at night making it difficult to get all of the required courses in without taking a leave from work to take classes during the day. If students could take more classes at night they would graduate sooner.

Is the UPASS going to be implemented at NEIU?

#### TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STUDENT

Not enough programs or sections are offered at night. I wanted to be a part of MSTQE but it is offered only during the day. Also, processes students need to do are all on campus only during the day making it difficult to do them in a timely manner. There should be an online option.