

Hello Student Club Presidents and Vice Presidents,

(please forward to all officers)

First and foremost, thank you for attending training. It was a fabulous turnout and my office truly enjoyed spending time with you and getting to know you and your club needs. As I promised during training, I would be following up on a number of policy questions (food handling, per diem/cash advance). I have not yet completed that task, but I will very soon and will be emailing w/ detailed information.

Also, all handouts and power points presented during the student org. training will soon be posted on our website under "Student Org. Resources".

Meanwhile, here is some key information that I hope will help you in a number of ways.

## **ORGSYNC Training**

**Tomorrow (Tuesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>) and Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**1:40pm in LWH-4066.** If you plan to attend, please respond and let me know which session you will attend. You do not need to RSVP on OrgSync.

## **CHARTER RENEWALS DUE**

Yep, they are due this week, Wednesday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> by 4pm. All must be submitted through OrgSync. If you need help, please visit us or give us a call.

X4660, Student Union Room 206.

## **STUDENT ORG MAILBOXES**

Are you checking your mailboxes? Please remember to check your mailboxes at least twice per week. They are located outside room #219 in the Student Union.

## **SAO OFFICE HOURS – EXTENDED**

Back by popular demand, the SAO has extended office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We will be open 8:30am-6:30pm on these days. Visit us in the main office SU-206.

## **MAP GRANT**

I spoke about this briefly at our Saturday Student Org. Training. I wanted to follow up w/ more information. Here is an email from the President of the University asking all of us to take action to address this issue. Please forward this to all who may be interested. Even if you do not receive the MAP grant as financial aid, we are all affected because this may cause a drop in enrollment; which, in turn, affects student activity fee and other fees that provide services to our entire student body:

PRESIDENT'S EMAIL:

TO: The University Community  
FROM: Sharon Haahs, President  
RE: Illinois Monetary Award Program Update  
DATE: Wednesday, September 23, 2009

I am writing to update you on the current State of Illinois budget situation as it is directly impacting our students, our University and higher education overall. As I mentioned in my last budget update to the University community, for the current school year, the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) has been cut in half by the Governor and the Illinois legislature. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the agency that administers the MAP awards, allocated all available MAP funds to cover student needs for the fall semester, leaving nothing for the spring.

If MAP funding is not available next semester, there will be over 2,000 NEIU students, close to one-third of our undergraduate students, who will suddenly not have the resources to pay for college costs. They may need to take out a loan (or a second loan), work extra hours, take fewer classes, or take a semester off. Everyone at the University will feel the impact of the loss of MAP funding. Fewer students taking fewer classes means that there could be cuts to the number of classes offered or cuts to services. Lost tuition revenue to the University due to MAP cuts could be as much as \$4 million, which is nearly 5 percent of the University's budget, which in turn might mean fewer funds for new academic programs and fewer resources for improving the academic programs we already offer.

There is some hope. The Governor and the Illinois General Assembly continue to work on a more realistic budget. In the meantime, Northeastern has launched an advocacy campaign to educate the legislature about the impact of MAP cuts on our students and University.

Timing is critical. Full MAP funding must be restored by November 1<sup>st</sup> so that continuing students can re-enroll for the spring semester. For that reason, I am asking you to take the following steps:

- **Before October 6<sup>th</sup>, please write a letter or an e-mail to your state senator and your state representative. Call their offices and let them know that their decision not to fully fund the MAP program affects the future of our students and University.**

- **Please encourage your students to write letters, send e-mails and call their legislators. ISAC has set up a website with resources for students who would like to participate in this state-wide advocacy campaign, [www.saveillinoismapgrants.org](http://www.saveillinoismapgrants.org) (click on the “Students” tab).**

Personally, I have joined a coalition of presidents and chancellors from public and private colleges and universities, community colleges presidents, and representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. This coalition is lobbying the Governor directly, and has been meeting with the editorial boards of the major newspapers throughout the state. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a rally in downtown Chicago calling for MAP grant funding to be restored. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, I will travel to Springfield with a group of our students to rally at the capitol and lobby the legislature to restore MAP funding.

The Governor and the legislature need to hear from all of us that supporting college students with financial need is a high priority for the State of Illinois and its future, and appropriately funding MAP grants is the key to assuring that everyone has an equal chance to go college.

Thank you for getting involved with this effort.