

**Nicholas School Student Council
Spring 2008 Progress Report**

A Report and Reference on NSSC Activities and Services
For the Nicholas School Community

Compiled by the
2008 Nicholas School Student Council

July 2008

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CONTACTS

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Officers: NSSC-reps@nicholas.duke.edu
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List of 2008 Nicholas School Student Council Officers

NSSC officer terms are Spring to Fall of each calendar year. Council elections are held in late Fall Term and enter office beginning the following Spring Term. Please see NSSC Charter for full position descriptions.

New positions created this year (formal adoption pending) include a **GPSC Community Outreach Rep**, who will serve as a liaison with GPSC on community service efforts. It is proposed that this position be filled by a Doris Duke fellow each year to coincide with their current roles as outreach leaders in the MEM community. The second new position is a **Nicholas School Sustainability Officer**, who will serve as the lead coordinator on Nicholas School-specific efforts on sustainability initiatives. This rep will not be a voting NSSC officer, but a representative chosen by the Duke Greening Initiative to serve as a liaison to NSSC and coordinate Nicholas School sustainability efforts with all student groups.

Elected Officers

Co-Executive Directors: Ben Landis and Mary Greene
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Burlage
Academic Officer/Honor Code Rep: Mallory Dimmitt*
Program Area Reps Coordinator: Julia Gruber
Professional Skills Coordinator: Mallory Dimmitt
Alumni Council Rep: Justin Bowers
International Student Reps: Annabelle Ng and Xiaojing Sun
Nicholas School Technology Advisory Committee Rep: Katie LaJeunesse

*No nominees for election; volunteered

GPSC Reps (Volunteer)

NSSC Reps: Anna-Marie Laura, Brandon Little, Jennifer Weaver*
Community Outreach Rep: Lisa Poser

*New reps to be recruited in Fall, as all three will be away from Durham campus then.

Program Area Representatives (Volunteer)

CEM: Anna-Marie Laura, Jennifer Weaver
ESC: Thomas Minter, Connor Coleman
EE: Julie Burlage
EEP: Katie LaJeunesse, Catherine Campbell, Brianna Menke, Brandon Little
EHS: Brit Merola
FRM: Connor Coleman, Kevin Osborne
GEC: Tim Foley
WAR: Joe Williams, Nicole Hagan

Sustainability Officer (Joint Appointment with DUGI)

Nicholas School Sustainability Rep: TBA by DUGI

Update on NSSC Initiatives and Services

NSSC Services

NSSC General Meetings

To hear student suggestions and concerns and discuss NSSC projects, NSSC holds general meetings on a bi-weekly basis. MEM students, staff, and faculty are all welcome at meetings. Minutes of meetings are available on the NSSC website: (<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/people/students/orgs-nssc.html>). We made an increased effort to inform Admin Offices of upcoming discussion agenda, and were pleased with the resulting increased dialogue.

In Spring 2008, an officers-only plenary meeting was also held at the start of the term to discuss the overall NSSC vision and objectives for the whole 2008 term of service (see Appendix for agenda).

Meetings with Administrative Offices

NSSC Co-Directors Mary Green and Ben Landis, along with respective NSSC officers, met with Dean Bill Chameides, Lynn Maguire, Cindy Peters, Susan Gerbeth-Jones, and Jim Haggard during the course of the Spring term. Discussed topics included the NSSC budget, NSSC's role within the school, and NSSC assistance on school events and planning. Along with Academic Officer Mallory Dimmitt, we also talked with Dr. Lynn Maguire about issues such as curriculum planning, appropriate process for addressing student complaints on courses/instructors, and professional skills modules development. Admin offices also maintained regular email communications with NSSC directors and officers throughout the semester.

To our error, NSSC did not meet regularly or provide general updates on NSSC activities to Dean Chameides or the Career Services Office. We look to improve our communication with the above in the coming term.

Meeting and Communication with Faculty

Another area that was not fully addressed this past term was improving communication between student leaders and faculty leadership. Improved communication would help MEM students better voice suggestions and concerns specific to program area requirements or course structures. Program area rep Connor Coleman approached a number of faculty on the possibility of attending program area faculty meetings, but no formal conclusion has been reached. Discussions and solicitation for ideas on correcting this issue will continue in the Fall.

Dean's Town Hall Meeting

Each semester, NSSC organizes a public meeting for the Nicholas student community (though geared primarily for the MEM constituency) to interact with the Nicholas School Dean with questions, suggestions, and concerns. For Spring 2008, the format was switched from an open question format to a mixed format, where some student questions were submitted to the Dean ahead of time while live questions were also taken. At the Spring 2008 session, students engaged Dean Chameides with questions on private sector partnerships and internships, financial aid, and the need to improve the Nicholas image and sustainable activities on the Duke campus. The full recording is available here:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/chameidestownhall.mp3>.

Program Area (PA) Socials

Julia Gruber is the current Program Area Officer. All program area reps received funding to host their respective PA social this past Spring. A recurring issue is the lack of faculty participation at socials due to family obligations of faculty. It is recommended that future socials be scheduled with faculty schedules in mind, potentially earlier in the evening or during morning or lunch hours. Less populated PA's are also encouraged to combine efforts to host a larger event, and all PA reps are encouraged to ask their PA faculty chair for additional funding if needed.

GPSC Representation

NSSC continued to send two representatives to general meetings of the Duke Graduate and Professional Student Council. Our GPSC reps relayed campus-wide news and issues concerning professional students back to the student body, and participated in votes.

Meeting and Communication with Nicholas Alumni Council

The NSSC Alumni Council Representative (Justin Bowers) is responsible for maintaining a dialog between the MEM student body and the Nicholas Alumni Council, particularly with developing mentoring programs. In April, Justin along with Mary Greene and Ben Landis attended the annual Alumni Council meeting. The primary issue discussed was how to improve the mentoring program, increasing participation by both alumni and students, and the optimal times and approach during the 2-year program to provide students with mentoring resources. NSSC officers advised the Council on these topics. Students interested in alumni advising process should contact the Alumni Council Rep.

Continuing Initiatives

First Year Mentoring Match-ups (Summer)

Coordinators: Julia Gruber

Methods. An Excel spreadsheet of all incoming MEMs was obtained from Erika Lovelace in June. Incoming students were each matched with a current student from the same concentration. Current student volunteers were matched with 1-4 mentees. Individual emails were sent to each new student, CC'ed to their mentors.

Student Lounge and Kitchen Area Maintenance

Coordinators: NSSC and student volunteers

Traditionally, NSSC Officers and MEM student volunteers have cleaned and maintained the 1st Floor Student Lounge kitchen area and refrigerators on a bi-weekly basis, as well as volunteering eco-friendly cleaning supplies. Because the area and fridges are used by Nicholas PhD's, custodial, and administrative staff in addition to MEM's, the area frequently suffered from fast build up of refuse and old food. At the same time, volunteers for cleaning duty were few.

We will explore new ideas in Fall to involve more involvement from the Nicholas Community, potentially cycling cleaning duties through student groups, or through signup sheets. Funding from the Dean's Office has also been requested to purchase reusable kitchenware and cleaning products for the coming year.

2008 Graduation Keynote Speaker Recruitment

Coordinators: Jason Franken and Heather Hosterman

Jason and Heather, serving on the NSSC as ex-officio members, were placed in charge of collecting keynote speaker nominations from the student body for submission to Enrollment Services. David Orr from Oberlin College was the speaker recruited.

2009 Graduation Keynote Speaker Recruitment

Coordinators: TBA (temporarily Ben Landis)

We have begun soliciting nominations for the 2009 Ceremony and submit a short list to Cindy Peters by September 2008. The survey form is available here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8rktXm_2bwmM_2fVg4Uu8WuvVA_3d_3d

2008 Graduation Student Speaker Recruitment

Coordinators: Mallory Dimmitt

Mallory asked all 2nd Year students for nominations for student speaker via email. The top nominees were contacted to see if they would be willing to speak, and if so, to provide a short description on their theme or approach. The information was compiled and sent to all second year students, with a request to vote for their speaker of choice via Survey Monkey. Carol Guy Stapleton, an EEP, was selected by her peers.

Honor Code Review Session

Coordinators: Mallory Dimmitt (will be substituted by TBA student)

The Fall Orientation Honor Code session is planned for Friday, August 22nd. Planning is underway to recruit breakout session student leaders and guest speaker.

Lost and Found Locker

Coordinators: NSSC

The NSSC monitors the L&F Locker located in the 1st floor of the A-Wing. We refitted the lost and found locker initiated by Jason Franken of the 2007 NSSC, by allowing easier access, adding a found-items sign-in sheet, and regularly reporting items in the Weekly Digest. Directions for use are as follows.

1. Located at the large student lockers on the west end of LSRC A-Wing. Locker No.46.
2. Please place found items in the locker. When placing items, please enter the item on the Inventory Sheet inside the locker.
3. (If the item appears to be of very high value, please take item to Anne Jones in the Nicholas Dean's Office.)
4. If an item belongs to you, please use the Inventory Sheet and print your name and today's date when you remove the item.
5. This locker will remain **unlocked** for ease of access. Please respect the Duke Honor Code, and general human courtesy.

Mid-Semester Course Evaluations

Coordinators: NSSC

Initiated by the 2007 NSSC, a midterm course evaluation was drafted and submitted to Prof. Lynn Maguire (Director of Professional Studies) to be used as a standard template for all courses. The form is intended as a tool for students to offer feedback and help address perceived needs in a course. In Spring 2008, we met with Dr. Maguire to discuss the evaluations, and were told that reminders were sent to all faculty to use them; NSSC also encouraged students to ask their professors to offer evaluations to provide feedback. However, anecdotal reports suggest that few professors took advantage of this forum. It is recommended that students directly ask professors to issue reports.

New Student Guide Handouts (Summer)

Coordinators: Mallory Dimmitt

Methods. The previous handout was revised and sent to Erika Lovelace in May, 2008 for e-distribution to all incoming students. This guide is a quick reference on some essentials, but a more comprehensive "Nic School Guide for Dummies" is being developed for distribution during Orientation.

Nicholas School Professional Student Survey

Coordinators: 2009 NSSC officers

This bi-annual survey sampling student opinion on Nicholas School faculty, curricula, and resources is designed, implemented, and analyzed by the NSSC with advising from Nicholas faculty. The last survey was in 2007 and the next survey is scheduled for Spring Term 2009.

Professional Skills Module Planning

Coordinator: Mallory Dimmitt

A new module was offered during the Spring semester on two separate occasions and featured nature walks led by Jeff Pippin. The first walk took place on West Campus, and the second walk was in the Duke Forest. The information included identification and natural history of plants, trees, birds, butterflies, and moths. Student evaluations of this module were extremely positive, and we will try to repeat these again in the coming year. Other ideas for trainings should be sent to Mallory at mld15@duke.edu. Planning is also underway for a "Professional Brown Bag" seminar series (see below under New Initiatives).

Volunteer Day

Coordinator: Lisa Poser

Technically a Doris Duke Fellows effort, but under the auspices of the NSSC. The MEM Volunteer Day is currently scheduled for Saturday, September 6th. The Fellows are currently selecting host locations around Durham and recruiting team leaders.

New Initiatives Beginning Spring 2008

Advising Lounge

Coordinators: Ben Landis (Fall 2008 planning by Julia Gruber)

We received student requests for a peer advising session where 2nd Year and 1st Year students can gather and help each other on course registration and MP topic planning.

Per this suggestion, the first ever "Advising Lounge" took place on March 21 from 4-5:30pm in Hug Commons, in time for the April 4 start of Fall registration. 2nd Year student volunteers were recruited to serve as advisors; 15 students in all volunteered, representing nearly all program areas. A list was posted in Hug of all scheduled advisors, their courses taken, and their MP topics, and name tags were provided for the advisors. Snacks and beverages were provided. Approximately 20 1st year students attended. Sufficient positive reviews have prompted us to plan additional sessions for new students. Julia Gruber is arranging the Advising Lounge session for Fall 2008 Orientation.

Computing Annex Beautification (Fall 2008)

Coordinators: Katie LaJeunesse

We identified a need to greatly improve the appearance of the Computing Annex room, where many students spend long hours working, rather depressingly with blank, windowless walls. Potentially, posters and photo galleries from professional students will be collected for display in Fall 2008.

Major Speaker Recruitment

Coordinators: Mary Greene

As a condition of funding assistance from the Dean's Office, the NSSC was asked to help recruit a major speaker to discuss environmental leadership on the Duke Campus. Due to the short planning time, Earth Day was identified as the most viable option to attract a guest speaker. Mary worked extensively with student volunteers, secured campus funding, and collaborated with the Campus Sustainability Office

(Tavey McDaniel) to plan the event as the keynote speech for campus-wide Earth Day celebrations. With the assistance of Elena Finkbeiner, MEM alumnus and marine conservationist Dr. Wallace J. Nichols was recruited to speak at the Bryan Center and host a private brunch session with Duke students. In conjunction with his talk, Dr. Nichols launched his “Eco-Daredevil” award (approved by the Knieval Family) and presented the inaugural title to a Nicholas PhD student.

Next semester more coordination with DUGI and other student groups is recommended to improve recruitment efforts for major speakers. More logistical and financial assistance from the Dean’s Office would also be extremely beneficial.

As of July 2008, no student committee is underway for Major Speaker recruitment for the 2008-09 year.

New Student Orientation Planning (Summer)

Coordinators: Jennifer Weaver (originally Nick Donowitz)

At the suggestion of students, NSSC formed a committee to explore ways to reinvent Orientation Week, to ensure that it was more time-efficient, less stressful, and offered more engaging activities to better help new students settle in and get to know each other. Nick Donowitz and the Orientation Committee held several meetings with Enrollment Services during Spring to discuss ideas for new activities, including an outdoor retreat segment proposal, and accompanying budgets were submitted. Options were discussed and several recommendations were adopted for the Fall 2008 Orientation. Remaining recommendations will be considered in future years pending student interest and funding.

Recruitment and organizations for all student-led activities for Fall 2008 Orientation is underway. The Orientation Team is responsible for arranging the following:

- Mon: Team Building Lunch 11:45a – 1:15p (Anna-Marie Laura)
 - Tue: Student-Led Academic “Advising Lounge” 10:45a – 11:30a (Julia Gruber)
 - Wed: Picnic in the park 6-9p (Lindsey Merriman and Brent Wanner)
 - Fri: Honor Code Orientation 12:15p – 1:30p (Mallory Dimmitt and TBA 2nd Year student)
Student Groups info session 2p-3p (Ben Landis)
- Also: “Nic School for Dummies” MEM Handbook (Kerry Schlichting)

Please contact the respective session leaders for details on each session. For overall planning updates please contact Jennifer Weaver

Nicholas Institute Collaboration – Presidential Forum Planning

Coordinators: Mary Greene and Ben Landis

At the invitation of Tim Profeta, Director of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, the NSSC helped plan a public forum featuring the senior advisors on energy and environment issues from the Clinton, Obama, and McCain campaigns (ultimately the McCain group deferred participation for a future occasion). NSSC officers recruited student volunteers to assist with intensive advertising efforts around campus and via web, and helped solicit forum discussion questions from the student body. Students Mallory Dimmitt, Heather Hosterman, Anna-Marie Laura, Kristine Young are commended for their work on the above tasks. Officers also provided on-hand assistance during the event, hosted on April 25, 2008. We hope this lays precedence for future opportunities to work with the institute.

Nicholas School Sustainability Pledge

Coordinators: Itai Shelem and Carol Guy Stapleton

NSSC provided funding to initiate a Nicholas School “Green Honor Pledge” (available to sign at <http://nicholas.duke.edu/people/students/pledge/>), a long-standing project of MEM ’08 students Itai and Carol, who worked with the Nicholas community to refine and complete the effort this past Spring.

While an online pledge to commit to the Sustainable Duke campus program is available to Duke students, as members of the School of the Environment it was felt that a more thoughtful commitment to protecting the world's natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability was needed, one that goes beyond the classroom and graduation and as part of a life and career ethic. The Nicholas Sustainability Pledge will serve as a reminder of its signatories to be mindful of this philosophy in all actions.

Funding went towards a framed copy of the Pledge locally made from reused barnboards. It was unveiled at the 2008 Nicholas Graduation Ceremony by Itai and Carol with Dean Chameides, and is now hanging in Hug Commons.

NSSC Budget Planning

Coordinators: NSSC

Planning for the 2008-2009 NSSC budget took place in the final NSSC meeting of Spring 2008. Officers presented suggestions and additions, and considered feedback from the student body. The budget was voted on and approved, and submitted to Laura Turcotte on April 16, 2008 and amended on April 22, 2008 to cover an advance for the Nicholas Sustainability Pledge expenses.

NSSC Weekly Digest

Coordinators: Ben Landis

We identified a need to reduce email traffic and improve communication between NSSC and the student body, and an email digest modeled after the GPSC email digests was initiated. NSSC Digests were emailed to professional student listservs (as well as the heads of various Nicholas administrative offices) on a weekly to bi-weekly basis, and compiled NSSC announcements and solicitations, as well as important program-wide notices and reminders, into single emails for reference. The initiative received favorable responses and will be continued. Digests will begin again in Fall 2008. For now submissions should be sent to benjamin.landis@duke.edu until the new digest coordinator is named.

“Professional Brown Bag” Seminar Series (Summer/Fall)

Coordinators: Mallory Dimmitt and Ben Landis

Previous working title was the “All You Need to Know” series. We identified a need for a seminar series to expose MEM students to experienced environmental practitioners, and to learn the basics of topical issues through the discussion of real life examples, analytical approaches, and tools of the trade. In the end, the seminar is intended to help students 1) explore disciplines and tools outside of their specialty that are critical to discussing environmental issues today, 2) understand the nuances of the professional environmental arena 3) network with professionals.

We surveyed the student body in Spring for potential topics, including carbon footprint calculations, GIS for econ/energy studies, and municipal water management. Tentative line-ups for the 2008-09 series are being refined and the series proposal will be presented to the Professional Studies Office in late July. Potential instructors are being identified and will be recruited shortly thereafter.

Student Organizations Planning Meeting

Coordinators: NSSC

Student reps identified a need to greatly improve communication and collaboration amongst the many student organizations within the Nicholas School. While our groups are diverse and active, they are often invisible to the greater Duke community and even the Nicholas community itself. Professional students already must carefully budget time, and must forgo participation in many groups at cost to both parties. Communication amongst groups would ensure that parties with similar interests can pool resources and collaborate on fewer but more prominent projects, which would provide more focused activities for students to participate in. A united Nicholas student groups resource would also allow non-Nicholas

organizations to more easily access the expertise and participation of Nicholas students, hopefully lending a more prominent Nicholas presence in the greater Duke community.

The inaugural Student Orgs Planning Meeting was held on April 8th, 2008. Leaders from all Nicholas student groups were invited, and most were in attendance. Leaders introduced the missions, activities, and major projects of their organization, and discussed potential for collaboration in the coming semesters. It was decided that Planning Meetings be held at the start of each semester (and potentially one more time in the semester), and a listserv be initiated for student groups to communicate with one another. The listserv address is: nssc-student-orgs@nicholas.duke.edu.

Website for Student Groups / Improving NSSC Communication

Coordinators: NSSC

The discussion continues to greatly improve the web presence and communication resource of NSSC and other student orgs, especially the need for a central website with a publicly accessible calendar that is updatable directly by student groups instead of going through the Nicholas webmaster. We will continue to explore the Duke Wiki and other options, and hope to have a final product during Fall 2008. We will also reorganize the NSSC physical bulletin board in the Student Lounge.

2008 Professional Student Survey – Introduction

A detailed survey is conducted on MEM students on their opinions of Nicholas School faculty, curricula, and resources during the Spring Term every other academic year. Results from the latest effort are available from the NSSC (2007 Professional Student Survey, Fall 2007). Surveys are designed, implemented, and analyzed by the NSSC with advising from Nicholas faculty.

To avoid any gaps in communicating student concerns and suggestions to Nicholas administrators, the 2008 NSSC decided to conduct a condensed Professional Student Survey in Spring 2008. The questionnaire collected student opinion on the performance of the NSSC and student suggestions for the respective Nicholas School offices. Survey was created on SurveyMonkey.com and distributed to Prof-First and Prof-Second mailing lists during March and April 2008.

Respondent names have been withheld unless permission granted. Comments are presented verbatim, unless edited to maintain a professional exchange (notated by ellipses).

Additional student suggestions collected over the course of the semester also follow the collected comments. Please also reference the Dean's Town Hall Meeting, hosted by NSSC in February 2008, for additional student suggestions and concerns (audio podcast available here:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/chameidestownhall.mp3>.

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for Enrollment Services (financial aid, course offerings, etc.):

- Please start a class in carbon foot-printing and Life Cycle Analysis. Please discontinue (or make optional) classes that are consistently disliked by students (210, 274...). Please have more classes that offer hard skills (tools) that are valuable in the job market. Enrollment services should consider being more selective with admissions. The school has grown quickly. It is unclear that quality has kept up with quantity - both in the way of admitted students and course offerings.
- The lack of course offerings is irritating, and a depressing part of the program. As a professional program, there is a lack of professional training. The skills modules aren't going to do it for us. We need more practical courses like Fuqua's forecasting, information/data management courses.
- Course offerings - Business and sustainability courses are heavily needed in Nicholas school. (MEM Student)
- Enrollment services really need to increase financial support for international students if they wish to diversify the program. (MEM Student)
- Look to be more sustainable in the way you do things (lunches, events, etc)
- Why aren't there more tool-based management courses taught at the Nicholas School?
- We need more courses offered. I have found that courses i want to take often have conflicting times... is there any way to reorganize the semester schedules so that courses will not conflict as much - at least within a certain program area?
- It would be nice if they could include more course offerings for the PubPolicy School and business school in the list of offerings they provide each semester. I also think that orientation week definitely needs to be revamped, and the calc and stats exams should not be done, since they don't seem to provide much value and only add additional stress. I know there's an orientation committee working on this, which I think is great.
- Peace Corps Fellows Program -- I brought this up with Cindy and Joe in Enrollment services, and am happy with the response (that they'd look into it for next year's applicants, will start by talking it over with PIDP Stephanie Lamm and CASE Matt Nash) -- just want to raise this on the radar. I'll still follow up but will be a little removed at Fuqua next year, so if anyone on NSSC is an RPCV or handles things like this, they could provide friendly nudges too. (MEM Student)

Additional Suggestions:

Financial Aid: One MEM student wished to forward an article from the *Devil's Advocate* (DukeLaw newsletter) to illustrate a housing fee issue. It discusses the problem of law students looking for housing in "safer" neighborhoods in Durham, but finding that the amount allotted for housing in their aid package is insufficient to cover the higher monthly cost of living in these areas. (http://www.the-devils-advocate.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2008/02/05/47a8674be7038?in_archive=1) The student noted that

safety aside, housing funding may also be a potential issue with students who may not wish to share housing (and lower rent) due to various circumstances. (Ben Landis)

Course Descriptions: Many students have complained that the MEM courses website (<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/programs/courses/grad-environ.html>) is grossly outdated and short on information relevant to making class selections. Indeed, as of this writing, some courses still list old instructors and many are lacking a recent syllabus. While students can approach faculty and fellow students to discuss course details, maintaining an updated course website should be a priority, particularly since this serves as the program's sole "general catalog." It is recommended that course description websites have at minimum 1) the most recent (or planned) syllabus, 2) course goals and expectations (introductory information normally discussed at the beginning of class), 3) pre-requisites and subsequent courses listed. If not already covered by the above items, the description should also address tools or methods to be used in the course, as well as potential professional applications of course material. (Ben Landis)

Curriculum Planning: A perennial topic appears to be notice of course availability, and this has been discussed with Enrollment Services in the past. This relates to instructor sabbaticals, alternating-year courses, change in semester offered, course registration in other professional schools, etc. Understandably, faculty may not always be able to plan as far ahead as convenient; however, given a 2-year program, precise planning is ever important to students, in order to get the most out of their investment in the MEM degree. It is recommended that some guideline be followed so that at the earliest notice of course no longer being available as scheduled, students are notified and are provided a list of comparable courses available in other Triangle universities. (Ben Landis)

Academic Advising: Student opinion on advisor relations is mixed. While some students have formed good relationships with their academic advisors and advisee cohorts, others have found advising sessions to be more procedural and impersonal, and in extreme circumstances advisors were frequently unavailable. Some students found it surprising that the initial academic advising meeting during Orientation was rather short and with little discussion on long term goals and interests. It may be safe to say that many students depend more on fellow classmates for course selection information.

Understandably, a range of preferences and idiosyncrasies of faculty and students exists. Nevertheless, it is recommended that academic advising be revisited and student opinions sought out (we will make sure the topic is addressed in the full NSSC survey in 2009). Ideas include longer, more detailed advising sessions during Orientation Week, and suggestions for advisor-advisees socials or discussion groups. (Ben Landis)

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for Career Services:

- Career services has exceeded my expectations - especially in connecting students with Alumn and professional organizations. (MEM Student)
- They are amazing! (MEM Student)
- Career services seems out of touch with the current job market and student aspirations. [...] The Duke/Yale career fair is a glorified information session with alumni talking about what they do for a living. [...] We're losing the opportunity to make a name for the Nicholas school as every Fortune 500 company is 'going green' in some capacity.
- The website always has pieces that are not updated.
- The networking session was great! Maybe hold one each term?
- No big deal, and I haven't exhausted their amazing services, but perhaps could incorporate more international development/community-based organizations into the Duke/Yale Fair or other talks/recruiting activities. Could maybe send out a suggested internship timeline for those of us who haven't gotten much advising from our concentrations regarding when to do what and how. Excellent cover letter, resume, etc. workshops -- really useful. (MEM Student)

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for Dean's Office and the Dean:

- The quality of teaching needs to improve. I do not doubt that the faculty are amazing researchers, but many are sub-par teachers.
- Bolster career recruiting so we can pay back our loans, and thus afford donating to the school in the future. We like the environment, but we're not willing to perpetually live in poverty.
- Thank you for being so open to comments throughout the semester. (MEM Student)
- I think the school should come up with financial resources to fund more student projects (domestic/international) for summer. A lot of students have their own creative ideas that they want to carry out in the field but the formidable task of getting funding prevents them from pursuing them. (MEM Student)
- More concrete evidence that they're working on our issues would be nice.
- I'd like to see a broader approach to sustainability by Duke -- not just corporate and campus, but an integrated, multisector and multidisciplinary approach and vision. Perhaps the social factors are the least integrated at this point into Duke's initiatives. It takes all parts to sustain into the future. Maybe the Dean knows how to broach this topic/whom to approach -- could lead this himself, or I'd be glad to become more involved if a broader vision is in the works. Some topics have Institutes, or Centers, or ??? -- like leadership, global change, etc. Incorporation of a sustainability ethic throughout the student body and curricula and entire institution may be one way to approach this (ie in orientations, in speaker/event series, etc.). I know some of this will take more shape as Charlotte Clark's half-position shifts from research/situation assessment to most effectively engaging students in sustainability. Also, I'd like to see more Nicholas and Duke attention on Africa. There's a lot on Asia, like the Nich internships this summer, several faculty members, but I'd prefer a stronger regional balance. On a similar note, on the web site, faculty are not searchable by expertise in sustainability, which seems like a good idea given Duke's trend toward sust. focus and the forward-thinking nature of the issue, if Nich School is a leader within the university and if Duke is going to be a leading institution as it is in so many ways. (MEM Student)

Additional Comments:

Campus as a Resource for MEM Research: As previously discussed in Town Hall and other forums, there is some concern that MEM students as a resource are not well known to the wider-Duke community, and that there is insufficient presence and leadership by the Nicholas community as a whole regarding campus sustainability. One recommendation is for the Dean's Office to explore ways MEM courses and student projects can be integrated into ongoing or future Duke environmental activities. An existing example is student work on campus wetlands, but additional opportunities abound in energy, economics, water resources, and additional conservation disciplines, particularly as Duke forges ahead with new green initiatives and campus infrastructures/redevelopments. While institutional sustainability and community development is not a defined concentration within the MEM program, nevertheless there exist many potential opportunities for Duke and the MEM program to mutually benefit. (Ben Landis)

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for Office of Professional Studies (curriculum, skills modules):

- Get rid of public speaking; it's worthless. Perhaps a better approach might be to start a toastmasters group and require a certain number of attendances? Or address public speaking through the program area seminars?
- Please start a class in carbon foot-printing and Life Cycle Analysis. Please discontinue (or make optional) classes that are consistently disliked by students (210, 274...). Please have more classes that offer hard skills (tools) that are valuable in the job market.
- the public speaking module is not useful and needs to be eliminated or replaced
- Modules are extremely boring and need to be revamped. Period.
- An overview of US political system and governance module directed towards international students. (MEM Student)
- Skills modules are horrible. The threats at MP symposium and the expectation that we attend EVERYTHING are absolutely ridiculous.
- More policy classes, more flexibility with required courses (like allowing students to choose from a number of similar classes for their core classes)
- the skills modules are really not helpful. if you are going to require them to graduate, then they should be more useful... maybe have separate sessions for the different program areas?
- The graphics and public speaking modules are not very useful, and should be replaced with more useful modules. I think public speaking is important, so it would be better to have smaller modules where people could be taped and practice giving presentations, and be given individual feedback. I love the "all you need to know about" brown bag sessions that are being planned, and the outside modules- I think those are GREAT!
- I like the curriculum, appreciate the flexibility. It would be helpful if courses were announced with a little more advance-time before registration; this has been getting better and the emails from Cindy and Lynn are appreciated. I feel like a watershed management course not unlike the soils course -- accessible to water beginners, practical-application and not extremely quantitative/modelling oriented -- would be useful for those students accepted with a stronger social science background. Particularly as watershed can be an ESC area of focus, and WAR is a concentration itself. The skills modules were not overly helpful in my opinion, particularly at grad level. The public speaking should have a small group component where you actually practice public speaking and get feedback. The graphic design one was okay. Stats 210 needs to be revisited. I wrote extensively about this in my course evaluation, so I won't repeat it here. Perhaps I am just unaware of what has been done this semester to make the class worthwhile and stats more useful for the incoming class. I had volunteered to discuss/help in the process on the course eval, and could still do so if necessary. If nothing has been done, then the feedback mechanism needs to be fixed.

I think program symposia should be used more systematically for first-year advising and time (internship, MP) planning, as well as for learning about the field/concentration, even if it's in small group informal discussions or a couple of guest speakers or professors speaking each semester. It would also help create a sense of community. ESC/FM could also maybe not always

meet all together -- some people are focused more (and less!) on management, conservation or forestry, so it can be hard to interact with the whole group in a relevant fashion, or for the group to be particularly cohesive or even see their shared interests/goals. I think it's important to accurately represent *current* strengths/activities of the Nich School to prospective students, esp. as this is only a two-year program. For example, there's not very much happening on the tropical front this year(s) in part because Prof. Terborgh is less active now. In particular, a basic tropical ecology course is what a first-year would most likely need (i.e. preferably before a specialized tropical humid forestry class). I understand that lag happens sometimes when fabulous professors retire, I guess I just feel that maybe more depth (for back-stopping) in some of the areas would be good so that fairly basic classes are consistently offered. This may be sort of functional, i.e. with Varun Swamy teaching tropical ecology last year, or Nora Bynum teaching the specialized forests course this year, but it felt a little misleading and has been a disappointment as well to me. (It is more of an updated web site/ depth, consistency of basic offerings approach issue than specific to the tropical example I've outlined). (MEM Student)

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for NicIT Office:

- Set the defaults to double sided
- Double-sided printing should be the default
- Always very helpful and responsive! It would be wonderful if adding webcontent was a smoother process for student initiatives/groups. (MEM Student)
- Staplers in the ICL suck. Don't know who's responsible, but that should probably be addressed.
- It's great that they allow us to check out laptops, projectors, and other equipment for personal use. They should have a few more available during peak use times.
- The ink/paper supplies in the computer labs run out a lot. it should be more clear what to do/who to call or email to get more supplies... post it right on the printers! also, the kiosks in hug commons are very unreliable.

Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for Other Nic Admin Offices and Services, or on anything else we haven't addressed:

- Revamp orientation. It was chaotic and there was no sense of community or belonging established.
- For the love of God, get recycling bins in EVERY classroom. It is an inexplicable, unforgivable crime that the Nic School does NOT have a freaking recycling bin in EVERY single classroom. I cannot harp on this enough.
- I just want to reiterate that even with all these comments, I think overall we're doing pretty well here administratively and governmentally! Just throwing some things out there that might nudge us toward that next level in small ways! I'm glad to chat or help re these issues if desired. (MEM Student)

Other Comments:

Student Commitment to School Improvement: MEM students are highly dedicated to the academic interest organizations they are part of and student groups contribute greatly to the general function, professional development, collective morale – and even financial benefit – of the Nicholas community. The multitude of well-planned, well-received events hosted this past year is evidence enough. As a general observation, however, there seems to exist a “catch-22” situation regarding student commitment and administrative support. Students offer suggestions on enriching the Nicholas experience and lobby for improvements to procedures and resources. Nicholas administrators often approve of suggestions, but on the condition that students take the initiative and lead on planning, and help maintain the momentum for subsequent efforts. But things fall apart after that, and several factors initiate a negative feedback loop, mostly due to the nature of an intensive, 2-year professional program.

First, student organization officers typically hold office for only one calendar year, and the rotation makes it difficult to sustain momentum on long-term, big-picture projects, let alone maintain an institutional memory of ideas past and present. Second, while students are very passionate about their proposals, their primary responsibility here is to do well in their studies and successfully complete their MP, precluding them from fully embracing an event or initiative, many of which are invaluable to the Nicholas and Duke community, but essentially require the effort of an additional job, class, or MP, without the financial or academic credit. It can be argued that this is training for “multitasking in the real world,” but we all have limits and choices have to be made between community projects we are passionate about, and staying on top of classes. Third, administrative and faculty hesitance to back some projects is understandable, especially because student preferences and needs can easily change from class to class, potentially mutating annually. But, while students come and go yearly, it is the staff and faculty who are constant and best understand the workings and resources of the school and the university, without having to relearn it every year.

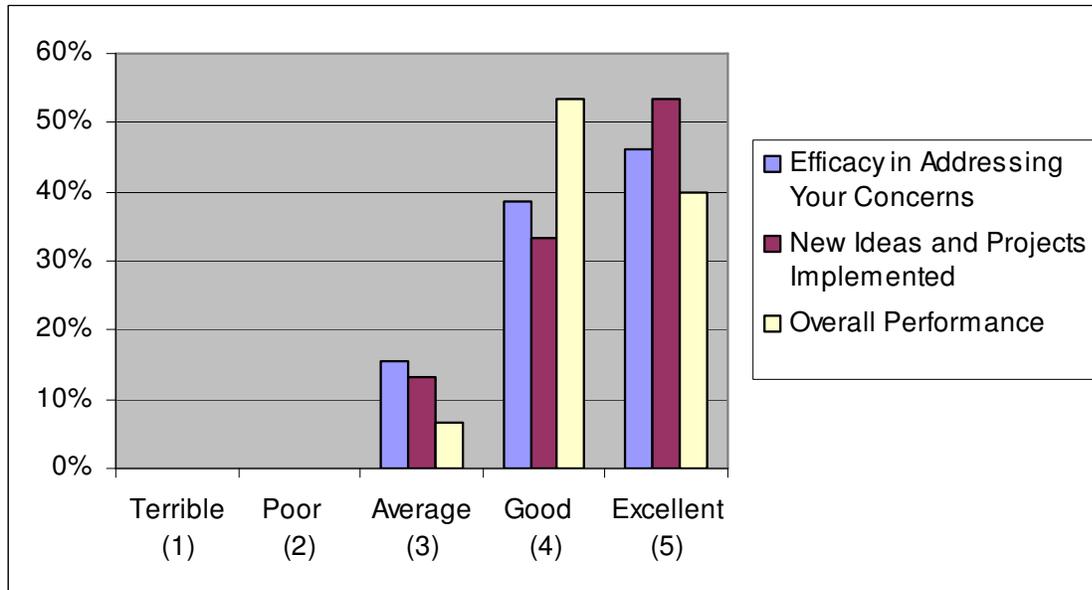
While many projects can be independently handled by students or the specific interest organization, in general we should probably reexamine how students and administrators can better support each other in greater endeavors and visions. A prime example is the ongoing Orientation Planning dialog. Additionally, the NSSC is working with all Nic student groups to form a more collaborative culture and to provide better communication to admin and faculty on student activities. It is unquestioned that students, staff, and faculty all care deeply about the present and future of our program, but this is one more issue that should be looked at so that our most important assets – the students – can make the most of their time here at the Nic. (Ben Landis)

Comments on the Nicholas School Student Council

**How would you rate your satisfaction with the performance of the Nicholas School Student Council?
Please consider this Spring 2008 term only. Then, feel free to point out some other NSSC attributes
you have an opinion on, and rate it.**

- 1-Terrible (1)
- 2-Poor (2)
- 3-Average (3)
- 4-Good (4)
- 5-Excellent (5)
- No Opinion (0)

	EFFICACY	IDEAS	OVERALL
n	13	15	15
Mean	4.3	4.4	4.3
Median	4.0	5.0	4.0
Max	5.0	5.0	5.0
Min	3.0	3.0	3.0



Suggestions, Comments, and Unresolved Concerns for the Nicholas School Student Council. What have you liked about the NSSC? What else should we be doing to help students? What could we do better? Should there even be a student council?

- Yes there should be a student council. It needs to interact more with staff and faculty. It needs more power as well. It seems that the council is largely marginalized and seldom consulted by staff and faculty when making decisions that affect students/the school. I don't know how to bestow more power on the council, but it's a concern.
- I see the greatest potential at the Nicholas School as eco-culture, returning to an environment driven attitude in daily tasks. This is a great opportunity NSSC can be a leader in. (MEM Student)
- Fridge and microwave clean ups are more frequent. The NSSC weekly/monthly digest is great and very informative! (MEM Student)
- There needs to be a student council. I'd say that there needs to be more staff or faculty working to help the NSSC out.
- PLEASE press to have the course advising system revamped. Updated course descriptions, professors and contact info, # credits, semesters/years offered, what requirement(s) a course fulfills (social science, tool, etc.), and syllabi should be posted online in a clear and consistent manner.
- I think you've done a lot over the last few months to make student council more visible, relevant, interactive -- maybe having reps posted somewhere throughout the year so I'd remember who to contact if i did have a concern? (MEM Student)

Appendix: NSSC Charter

Nicholas School Student Council Charter

Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences

Article I: Our Purpose

The Nicholas School Student Council (NSSC) of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences is an advocate on behalf of professional students, representing the interests and concerns of these students to the Duke University and Nicholas School community. The NSSC is a group of elected and volunteer-appointed Masters of Environmental Management (MEM) and Masters of Forestry (MF) students that serves as an advisory body to the faculty and administration, and provides a conduit between the student body, faculty, and administration. Through the NSSC, professional students address with faculty and administration issues that include, but are not limited to, academic programs and curricula, courses, professional development, and long-range goals of the school. Through the service of its officers and representatives, NSSC aims to improve the quality of student life at the Nicholas School.

The main purposes of NSSC are:

- 1) To facilitate communication between Nicholas School professional students, faculty, and administration.**
- 2) To represent the interests and concerns of Nicholas School professional students to the Duke University community.**
- 3) To improve the quality of student life at the Nicholas School.**

Article II: Membership

All elected or appointed professional students in the Nicholas School of the Environment shall be members of the NSSC.

Elected positions include the Executive Co-Directors, Program Area Representative Coordinator, Academic Officer, Treasurer/Secretary, Professional Skills Coordinator, Alumni Representative.

Volunteer positions include Graduate and Professional Student Council Representatives, International Representatives and Program Area Representatives

All professional students in the Nicholas School of the Environment shall have the right to attend all general assembly meetings of the NSSC.

Article III: Executive Committee

The NSSC is led by six *executive officers*: two Executive Co-Directors, a Program Area Representative Coordinator, an Academic Officer, a Professional Skills Coordinator, and a Treasurer/Secretary. Their purposes are as follows:

The **Executive Co-Directors** are responsible for ensuring open channels of communication between students, faculty, and administration. The Executive Co-Directors lead NSSC's strategic planning, delegate responsibility among the executive officers, and facilitate meetings. The Executive Co-Directors also coordinate efforts among the service officers. The Executive Co-Directors may also invite students to sit on ad-hoc committees involving students, administration, and/or faculty for strategic planning or other efforts. The Executive Co-Directors may also seek speak on behalf of the professional student body to the Nicholas School's Board of Visitors or Faculty Council.

Additionally, the Executive Co-Directors should be open to working with leaders of other Nicholas School organizations to facilitate communication among these leaders to improve organization relations, event planning and scheduling, and fundraising.

The **Program Area Representative Coordinator** coordinates the first- and second-year program area representatives. The Representative Coordinator ensures that program area representatives regularly meet with or solicit input from students and take concerns to faculty program directors; summarizes student concerns and identifies emerging issues among the program areas; and ensures that all program areas have student representatives. The Coordinator should help the program area representatives organize a social for students and faculty in their program each semester. The Representative Coordinator is also responsible for communicating with faculty and if possible should try to attend a Faculty Council meeting.

The **Academic Officer** is responsible for advancing academic quality at the Nicholas School, through cooperation with faculty and administration. The Academic Officer should work creatively to improve teaching, advising, and the educational experience for professional students. The Academic Officer is also responsible for introducing new students to the Nicholas School of the Environment Honor Code and providing student representation on issues concerning the honor code. The Academic Officer facilitates a mandatory meeting during Orientation (and otherwise as necessary) to help incoming students understand the meaning and importance of the honor code and how it relates to them and their scholarly pursuits.

The **Treasurer/Secretary** manages the NSSC budget by authorizing funds for NSSC. This officer also maintains print and electronic files for the organization; creates and maintains a professional student contact list; posts minutes, meeting schedules, and other pertinent information on the NSSC bulletin board and/or website; and coordinates officer and representative elections. The Treasurer/Secretary should be concerned with publicizing NSSC and ensuring that students are aware of its work.

The **Professional Skills Coordinator** is responsible for representing student interests for the development of professional skills. This officer coordinates with the Director of Professional Studies, Career Services, and organizations such as the student chapter of National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and Doris Duke Conservation Fellows. A primary goal is to refine or improve existing skills modules and add new opportunities to learn professional skills.

Article IV: Service Officers

In addition to the executive committee, there are additional *service officers* who are elected or appointed to serve specific purposes. Their purposes are as follows:

The **Alumni Representative** is an elected representative responsible for coordinating efforts with Alumni Affairs, representing NSSC on alumni-related issues, and attending alumni events. The Alumni Representative may also coordinate Alumni/Student events. If the Alumni Representative is unable to attend Nicholas School-sponsored alumni events, the Representative should choose a proxy to fulfill these duties.

Graduate and Professional Student Council Representatives (3) are volunteer representatives responsible for representing the Nicholas School and the NSSC at the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) meetings and events and facilitating communication between Nicholas School students and GPSC

representatives. A GPSC Representative should designate a proxy to attend a GPSC meeting if the Representative cannot attend.

International Representatives (2) are elected representatives who work to ease the transition of international students' into the Nicholas School and facilitate interaction of international students with other Nicholas School non-international students. These representatives should coordinate with Enrollment Services, the Student International Discussion Group (SIDG) coordinators, and other non-Nicholas international groups.

The **Technology Advisory Representative** is responsible for representing student views on technological issues as related to the Nicholas School and attending Nicholas School Technology Advisory Committee (NicTAC) meetings and discussions.

Article V: Program Area Representatives

Each Program Area has one first-year and one second-year representative. Program areas include all officially recognized MEM programs degrees and there will be a separate representative for Joint Degree students. Program Area Representatives are responsible for gathering feedback on issues and concerns from students in their respective academic program area and representing those views to NSSC. Program Area Representatives should actively solicit input from or meet with students in their program at least once a semester, organize a social to bring professors and students together (at least once a semester), and inform students regularly of their availability as Representatives. Program Area Representatives are asked to volunteer at the beginning of each school year, and may be nominated by students or volunteer during a program area meeting or a NSSC meeting.

Article VI: Meetings

Executive co-directors shall designate the first meeting of the spring semester as an open plenary meeting that may be attended by all students, faculty and staff of the Nicholas School. The purpose of this meeting shall be to create an agenda for the upcoming year that reflects achievable goals for the NSSC. After open discussion of topics and issues a vote shall be taken to determine which issues will become part of the agenda. Each person attending the meeting may vote for two agenda items, and the five items with the most votes become the agenda for the calendar year. If an item on the agenda falls clearly under an existing office, that officer will be appointed to address the item throughout the year. Other officers may volunteer to be leaders or co-leaders assigned to addressing the remaining items.

There shall be at least two general assembly meetings during each semester of the academic school year. Notice of such meetings shall be given to the entire student body at least three days before the meeting. Meetings are open to all members of the Nicholas School community.

All Executive, Service, and Program Area Representatives are required to attend. In the event an officer or representative cannot attend a meeting they must nominate a proxy to attend. After a maximum of 2 missed meetings the Executive Co-Directors reserve the right to remove the student from their office and appoint a replacement. There shall be twice-a-month meetings of the Executive and Service Officers during the academic school year. Notice of such meetings shall be given at least three days before the meeting.

Article VII: Elections

Election committee. An election committee composed of the Treasurer/Secretary, Representative Coordinator, and another officer appointed by the Treasurer/Secretary shall conduct elections for

executive and service officers, according to procedures set up in the charter: 1) Elections will be by secret ballot; 2) all Nicholas School professional students will each have one vote; 3) elections will take place during the month of November of each year, or as necessary in the case of vacant positions.

Voting procedures. The elections committee shall conduct all voting procedures. It is the duty of this committee to: 1) request nominations for each elected office; 2) create and disseminate a list of nominated members running for an election position; 3) conduct the election and announce the newly elected officers. The Nominee with the greatest percentage of student votes will be declared the winner of the election.

Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for a term of two semesters to serve from the spring following the elections through the subsequent fall semester. With the exception of GPSC and Joint Degree representatives who will serve for the academic year.

Transition of Administration. There shall be a meeting of the Executive Committees following the election, at the end of the fall semester. It should include the outgoing and incoming officers and any other persons deemed necessary. All new business and files are turned over to the newly installed officers who then become the presiding officers.

Article VIII: Amendments

The Executive Committee may amend this Charter when it is deemed necessary. It may be amended or revised by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the officers and representatives present at a meeting. It is recommended that the Student Council review the charter during the last two weeks of October each year.

Article IX: NSSC and Duke University

The Nicholas School Student Council shall adhere to the Student Guide and other laws, rules, and regulations governing the Duke University and its students.

Amended Fall 2007.

Appendix: Spring 2008 NSSC Plenary Meeting Agenda

Nicholas School Student Council - Council Planning Meeting
Tuesday, 1/22/2008, 7:30pm - 9:00pm, Room A158

AGENDA:

- Decide regular council meeting times.
- Set up fridge cleanup signup.
- Reconfirm GPSC reps.
- Go over budget, reimbursement procedures.
- Directors report:
 - Major tasks: such as major speaker event, brown bag lunch series.
 - Vision for 2008 Council:
 - Information source for students and organizational center for student groups
 - Improving student/faculty interaction, communication; courses/skills training choices and quality
 - Improving student community/environment
 - Consultation to Dean Chameides
- Members report on carry-over tasks from 2007 (what you learned from your 2007 counterpart).
- Council discuss ideas for 2008 tasks and agenda. Compare ideas and prepare platform to present to student body at General Meeting.
- Discuss format of General Meeting, agenda voting, action committee strategy, etc.
- Delegate immediate tasks, such as food, outreach letter to Admin; also decide what to do with Academic Officer position (see charter for descript.)
- Pick time for first general meeting and delegate food duties.

NSSC Organization

- Better network with all Nic student groups; serve as institutional memory for past projects.
- Sending reps to green meetings at other schools, esp. Fuqua?
- Improved NSSC Website functions, suggestion board, and NSSC documents.
- Reorganized bulletin board/new location, with NSSC announcements, ride share (NCSU, UNC, DML, vacation), community note board, sale notices. (a personal favorite)

Professional Skills Training

- Improving all series, esp. speaking? Ideas for new series?
- More networking sessions?

Program Areas/Faculty Dialogue

- Improving discussion between students and Nic School Offices/Faculty; reinforce NSSC representative role.
- Different approach to Dean Town Hall meetings? Summarize student comments regularly; have Dean address them at Town Hall? (So he's more prepared to answer)
- More presence/speeches by Dean Chameides (opening speech at first General Meeting of each semester?)
- Improve student-faculty socials.

- Improve Annual Survey.
- Working with Enrollment Services to improve course information (to help with long-range degree planning); maybe incorporate with course/prof reviews by students, and produce an unofficial Nic School "general catalog" online? (probably too much work...)

Academic Development

- Brown Bag Lunch ideas:
 - "All You Need to Know About..." series where Nic profs lecture on important facts and though major env. topic/technique of their specialty. Great way for students to be prepared to answer questions from lay public; to learn about env. field outside of their concentration and don't have time to take full course; to learn which classes they should take if they want to learn more. (this is a personal favorite)
 - Other ideas from students.
- Improve interaction with Nic PhD students; invite them to socials?
- Major Speaker Event
 - Nic School Env. Annual Conference (?), or some other context/event to attract speaker for the Big Name Speaker goal (or maybe a Nic School opening convocation?)
 - Duke Earth Day? (Jason Franken) (if people want to)

Student Perks/Tech Stuff/Green Living

- Fix ups for Student Lounge: magazines and rack, rain gear drying area, game boards.
- Fix ups in Christensen: smell, broken furniture, improved library system of textbooks and env-related books.
- More computer access (BES library? Christensen?)
- Extra printers spec. for single-side reprints.
- Yearbook? (coauthor with FOREM?)
- Minor fundraising to support above

Helping Out/Internationals

- Offering Enrollment Services help with improving orientation.
- Continuing New Student Tips handout (NSSC/FOREM)
- Continuing Annual Volunteer Day (Kate Taylor); extend to every semester?
- Better Marine Lab representation; maybe sub-Council?
- Improving Internationals support/mingling.
- Improving student "family" (well wishes, support, etc., or with yearbook).
- Improving information delivery to students, particularly non-Nic related business such as Health Care, Housing, etc.

Position Statements to Dean's Office

- Statement on the Need to Raise Nicholas School Profile within Duke (aka, sick of hearing how great Fuqua is!!!)

Appendix: NSSC 2008-2009 Requested Budget

Nicholas School Student Council

2008-2009 Fiscal Year Funding Request Justifications

Amount Requested: \$4,000.00

Prepared by Ben Landis, Mary Greene, Julie Burlage (NSSC)

NSSC General Meetings - \$980

Entertainment expenses (food/beverage) for bi-weekly organizational meetings for the NSSC. Meetings are open to student body, and NSSC hears and addresses student concerns at meetings.

Program Area Student/Faculty Socials - \$1,300

Entertainment expenses (food/beverage) for program area socials to foster student-faculty interaction and communication, once per semester. Allocated proportionately amongst program areas, by number of students (recalculated with each incoming class each semester).

Special Events - \$560

Entertainment expenses (food/beverage) for:

Town Hall Meeting: Q/A opportunity with Dean Chameides or Dean Klein, once per semester.

Peer Advising Lounge: Very popular new event, allowing 2nd years to advise 1st years on course selection, curriculum planning, MP, and academics. Once per semester.

Student Orgs Planning Meeting: Planning meeting for NSSC student organizations leaders to meet and plan events for upcoming semester, allowing for more unified Nicholas student body presence and an organized student consultation source for the greater Duke community to collaborate with.

International Students Social: Fosters interaction and advising amongst international students.

Task Group Meetings - \$140

Entertainment expenses (food/beverage) for various NSSC planning committees, who provide valuable consultation to Nic admin offices (Enrollment, Prof Studies, etc.) in planning student welfare activities, including orientation week improvement, Honor Code sessions, Volunteer Day.

Discretionary Expenses - \$350

This is the major new addition request. This allocation will cover previously approved requests that were to be addressed by the Dean's Office, but may be more expedited through student action. These include:

Book/Magazines: Dean previously approved funding for periodicals for students. NSSC proposes to take over this responsibility, and organize student requests for subscriptions and Reading Room title purchases (saving workload for Dean's Office). Intended to improve news resources for the student community.

Student Lounge Appliances/Supplies: Previously Dean's Office responsibility, but student input and control over appliances and supplies maintained may increase longevity and care by students.

Student Lounge Supplies: Students currently volunteer to buy dish soap and other kitchen supplies, but higher quality, sustainable products are often expensive.

New Initiatives/Proposals – 20% of Subtotal

Covers funding for any new event plans or NSSC project ideas not budgeted originally. Affords some degree of flexibility for student groups, and encourages new ideas.

Per agreement with Dean Chameides and Haggard, unused funds will roll over to the next fiscal year.

***Addendum:** ~\$350 will be added to this budget to cover an advance withdrawn in May 2008 to cover expenses for the Nicholas Sustainability Pledge, per agreement with Dean Chameides.*

Nicholas School Student Council				Annual Budget, 2008-09 Fiscal Year				
		Unit Cost	Units	Subtotal			Item Totals	Subtotals
Budgeted Expenses	<i>NSSC Meetings</i>	<i>per-person</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>		
	NSSC General Meetings	\$2.50	28	\$70.00	7	7	\$980.00	\$980.00
	<i>Program Area Socials</i>	<i>per-person</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>		
	EE	\$2.50	30	\$75.00	1	1	\$150.00	
	EEP	\$2.50	60	\$150.00	1	1	\$300.00	
	EHS	\$2.50	20	\$50.00	1	1	\$100.00	
	ESC	\$2.50	70	\$175.00	1	1	\$350.00	
	CEM	\$2.50	40	\$100.00	1	1	\$200.00	
	GEC	\$2.50	20	\$50.00	1	1	\$100.00	
	MF	\$2.50	10	\$25.00	1	1	\$50.00	
	WAR	\$2.50	10	\$25.00	1	1	\$50.00	\$1,300.00
	<i>Special Events</i>	<i>per-person</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>		
	Dean's Town Hall Meeting	\$2.50	28	\$70.00	1	1	\$140.00	
	Peer Advising Lounge	\$2.50	40	\$100.00	1	1	\$200.00	
	Student Org Leaders	\$2.50	28	\$70.00	1	1	\$140.00	
	International Students Social	\$2.50	16	\$40.00	1	1	\$80.00	\$560.00
	<i>Task Group Meetings</i>	<i>per-person</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>		
	Orientation Week	\$2.50	14	\$35.00	0	1	\$35.00	
	Honor Code	\$2.50	14	\$35.00	0	1	\$35.00	
	Volunteer Day	\$2.50	14	\$35.00	1	1	\$70.00	\$140.00
<i>Discretionary Expenses</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>quantity</i>	<i>subtotal</i>					
Books/Magazine Purchases	\$200.00	1	\$200.00	1	0	\$200.00		
Student Lounge Appliances/Supplies	\$50.00	1	\$50.00	1	1	\$100.00		
Student Kitchen Supplies	\$25.00	1	\$25.00	1	1	\$50.00	\$350.00	
Contingency Expenses	<i>New Initiatives and Proposals</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>quantity</i>					
	20% of Subtotal	\$666.00	1	\$666.00	0	1	\$666.00	\$666.00
BUDGET TOTAL								\$3,996.00

Appendix: List of MEM Student Organizations

While the NSSC is not the supervisory body of all MEM student organizations, we facilitate communication amongst the groups. Below is a list of groups and current group officers for reference. Updated July 2008.

The Coastal Society – Duke Chapter

Current Officers: Anna-Marie Laura, Corrie Curtice, Michelle Fabie, Basma Mohammed
Raises awareness of coastal conservation issues. Organizes annual Neuse River Triathlon.

DELPF (Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum)

Current Officers: TBA

DUGI (Duke Greening Initiative)

Current Officers: Amy Dao, Lindsey Merriman, Alexandra Michalko
The primary campus student organization for greening projects, working with the Campus Sustainability office. DUGI will also be leading Nicholas School-specific greening projects

Doris Duke Fellows

Current Fellows: Ashley Adams, Mallory Dimmitt, Kylan Frye, Jamie Harkins, Drew McConville, Lisa Poser, Wendy Goyert
The primary coordinators for community outreach efforts by Nicholas School students.

DukeFish (American Fisheries Society – Duke Chapter)

Current Officers: Ed Farrell
Promotes fisheries and sustainable seafood awareness.

EIF (Environmental Internship Fund)

Current Officers: Monica Stich, Ashley Adams, Amy Calhoun
Summer internship fundraisers. Sells student-designed Nicholas schwag, local farmed vegetables, and organizes annual Spring Silent Auction.

Energy Club

Officers: Tim Chung
Energy and transportation issues. Organizes trips to local power plants.

Farmhand

Current Officers: Gretchen Kroeger, Cassie Hoffman
Introduces students to local farms and organizes student volunteer days at local farms.

Fire Ecology

Current Officers: Connor Coleman

FOREM

Current Officers: Brent Wanner, Lindsey Merriman
The primary social organization for the Nicholas School. Organizes annual Spring Banquet, Winter Semi-Formal, and regular Friday courtyard socials.

Grey Devils

Current Officers: David Anderson, Catherine Campbell
Social organization for students over thirty years of age.

NSSC (Nicholas School Student Council)

Current Officers: Mary Greene and Ben Landis
Primary student service organization for the Nicholas School MEM students. Facilitates communication amongst students, faculty, and administrators.

SAF (Society of American Foresters – Duke Chapter)

Current Officers: Connor Coleman, Joe Williams, Caimee Schoenbaechler

Society for Conservation Biology – Triangle Chapter

Current Contact: Emily Weidner

SIDG (Student International Discussion Group)

Current Officers: Heidi Hausman and Kelli Mineard (sponsored by Prof. Erika Weinthal)
Promotes awareness of international environmental issues through student presentations on research abroad. Organizes annual SIDG conference with invited speakers.

WGELA (Working Group for Environment Latin America)

Current Officers: Ian Varley, Lisa Poser, Cassie Hoffman