

Nicholas School Student Council (NSSC) Meeting Minutes 8 February 2011

In attendance:

Co-Directors: Barrett Bohnengel, Madeleine Foote

Secretary: Stu Iler

Treasurer: James Hildenbrand

Academic Officer: Rotimi Thomas

Program Area Officer: Sam Baraso

Alumni Representative: Cassidy Travis

Nickipedia/Communications Officer: Leslie Acton

International Student Representatives: Feifei Li, Andrew Lee

- Goals
 - Review of previous goals
 - Desire to increase communication between student groups
 - Cassidy is in the process of updating the groups list
 - Program Area Officer position
 - Effort to reach out to different program areas
 - Mentor/mentee program
 - Events to encourage interaction between first/second years and between the concentrations
 - Ideas for inter-concentration events include:
 - Competition events that highlight concentrations' differences
 - Events that focus on major topics in various concentrations
 - A night for each concentration to discuss its issues, projects, etc.
 - Nickipedia
 - Desire to increase traffic to the site
 - Addition of class syllabi
 - Addition of course reviews
 - Goal to work collaboratively at meetings without hard lines drawn around positions
 - Creation of a Google Group for NSSC
- Projects
 - Faculty coffee
 - Events to connect students and faculty have been done in the past; suggestion to restart such a program and invite additional faculty members to participate
 - Encouraging use of the book swap in the reading room
 - The book swap might be more successful if it was re-branded in a manner that emphasized its value
 - NSSC Open House

- Idea for a recurring event in Hug Commons where students can express their thoughts and concerns with members of the NSSC in a one-on-one setting
 - Effort to increase interaction with international students
 - Feifei and Andy to brainstorm event ideas to facilitate student mixing
- Earth Day: Thursday, April 21st
 - Last year green groups hosted activities on the lawn
 - Tentatively plan on a 2PM start time for this year's event
 - A request was put in for \$1,500 of GPSC funding; partnering with FOREM; possibility of making a general event
 - Brainstorming of activities: egg toss, three-legged race, relay race, etc.
 - Possibility to work with the Pratt School of Engineering
- Need for another GPSC Representative
 - Madeleine and Barrett already performing this role
 - Sam volunteered as the 3rd representative
- Possibility to coordinate with FOREM on the Friday night event during Admitted Students Visitation Weekend (Friday, April 1 and Saturday April 2, 2011)
- Issues and ideas from the suggestion box:
 - Desire for additional picnic tables
 - Rental camp chairs (possible to obtain these at The Outpost)
 - Silverware/plates to be provided by the previous NSSC
 - Madeleine to buy cleaning spray and a sponge for the sink area using NSSC funds
 - Vote: Unanimous Yes
- Review of Nicholas School Town Hall Meeting:
 - NSSC to prioritize a select number of initiatives that are possible to pursue
 - Stu to send out notes from the Town Hall Meeting
 - Leslie to add a summary to the top of the NicDig emails
 - Potential to do a Nicholas School-specific face book
 - Discussion of desire for more MEM/PhD interaction
 - Facilitating communication with faculty
- Putting course syllabi up on Nickipedia
 - Suggestion to add a single paragraph description of each course in addition to the course syllabus
 - Reviews and assessments of courses
 - Question of how to make such feedback anonymous
- Idea of creating videos on Nicholas School topics
 - The television in Hug Commons could be used more effectively to distribute information