Nicholas School Student Council (NSSC) Meeting Minutes
2 March 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

- Discussion of concerns, ideas, and feedback from the NSSC Open House event
- Brainstorming ideas for inter-concentration events
  - Lawn games
  - Paintball
  - Trivia night at a local venue
    - Multi-concentration teams
    - Environmental questions
    - Barrett, Sam, and Stu to pursue
- New GPSC Representative: Andy
- Acquired funding from GPSC; matching funds are forthcoming
- Students have expressed their desire for a person in the Nicholas School community to whom they can go to express concerns; discussion of people who are already filling this role
- Sam to move forward on organizing faculty coffee hours
- Effort to develop a new Alumni Database
  - This effort is driven by an expressed student interest in such a system
  - There is a need to determine which features are key
  - Cassidy is pursuing
- A roundtable discussion of student groups is scheduled for March 25
- Efforts to improve Nickipedia
  - Try to better focus the site
  - Addition of class information
  - Increased attempts to draw people to the site: better site marketing, inclusion of the FOREM time waster of the week, etc.
  - For better organization, break the site into work & play sections
- Earth Day Event – Thursday, April 21
  - Possibility for a joint event with the Green Devil Bike Parade
  - Activity idea: a competition to design something funny or useful from waste materials, packaging, etc.
  - Discussion of the possibility for a band and/or DJ to play
  - Proposed event start time: 2PM
  - T-shirt design contest
New policy teaching faculty and the role of NSSC to publicize the process and facilitate student involvement
  - Suggestion of students in the Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) concentration who would be interested in forming a committee to help evaluate potential new faculty members
  - Dates of presentations: March 22, 24, 29, and 31
• Possibility for NSSC to co-sponsor with the Duke Muslim Student Association a lecture by Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, RI University ex-football player and environmentalist. The talk is titled “Green Deen – What Islam Teaches about Protecting the Planet” and is scheduled for Saturday, March 26
  - Vote: Unanimous Yes to co-sponsor the event in name and publicity
• The NSSC has decided not to pursue facilitation of an additional town hall meeting at this time; student groups have formed and are pursuing initiatives proposed at the previous meeting
• Update the board in the lounge with baby pictures of NSSC members
• Idea of adding a PhD position to the NSSC or having a PhD liaison to interact with the NSSC; part of the effort to create more interaction between MEM and PhD students
• Suggestion to host a farewell party for Coastal Environmental Management (CEM) concentration students before they depart for Beaufort next year
• Desire to determine a biweekly, regular meeting time for the NSSC
• Ideas for events in memory Chris Beavais: mustache march; date auction
• Proposition of an international night to share cuisine and spend time with international students at the Nicholas School
• Request for a printer in the Energy Hub (Gross Chemistry building)