

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

- Food
- Speakers
 - Previous suggestion for Susan Bass, Senior Vice President of the Earth Day Network, to speak earlier in the week
- Extending an invitation to other green groups on campus
- Other activities to possibly include lawn games, soap box derby, etc.
- 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 Beauvais: 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)