

## Nicholas School Student Council (NSSC) Meeting Minutes 6 September 2011

### *In attendance:*

Co-Directors: Barrett Bohnengel, Madeleine Foote

Secretary: Stu Iler

Treasurer: James Hildenbrand

Program Area Officer: Sam Baraso

Alumni Representative: Cassidy Travis

Communications Officer: Leslie Acton

International Student Representatives: Feifei Li, Andrew Lee

- Discussion of new building with Prasad
  - Break ground in May 2012 (after completion of the school year)
  - Finish construction around July 2013, then begin LSRC renovations
  - The building will be LEED-certified Platinum
  - 5-story structure
  - Walkway with entrance to second floor on the Circuit Drive side
  - Private offices, open offices, thermal corridor
  - Solar photovoltaic panels on roof
  - Various faculty and staff members will lead groups to investigate options for rooftop vegetation, sustainability features, computer labs, classrooms, and marine lab interaction
  - Prasad wants to form a small student committee to discuss ideas for student meeting rooms and work spaces (for use during the day and after hours; some semi-private and/or configurable)
- Review of NSSC goals and progress
  - Increasing communication between ourselves and student body
  - Better coordination of student groups
  - Increase roles of Program Area Officer and Alumni Council Rep
  - Members will work collaboratively without hard lines drawn between positions
  - Nickipedia and book swap
  - Increase interaction between first/second years, concentrations, and international students
  - Discussion of potential events to increase interaction within international students and between international and domestic students
    - A potluck-style culture night with various cuisines to promote understanding of other countries and traditions
    - A mixer night for international students to meet each other
    - A learning component of SIDG meetings where:
      - International students speak about their countries' environmental policies and
      - Domestic students talk about US environmental policies

- Short seminar(s) on US environmental policy given by faculty and/or students
- Discussion of Barrett's probable absence
- Working with Fuqua's Student Council
  - Andy and Cassidy to begin communication; possibility to collaborate with MEMBA
- New website
  - Talk with Stephanie Thirolle, Direct of Web Projects for the Nicholas School
  - Have student groups host their pages separately from Nickipedia
  - Discussion of what to do with Nickipedia
  - Stu and Leslie to lead the new website effort
- Events for this year
  - Talent show: to be scheduled for mid-October on a Thursday; the event will have no admission cost
  - Pumpkin carving contest: potentially the Thursday before Halloween; Farmhand will be hosting a pumpkin patch trip
  - International mixers: discussed above
  - Mentor/mentee social recap
  - Faculty coffee hours: Sam to begin coordination
  - Field Day: to be held at the Couch Farm site; a day of events, food, etc.; tentatively scheduled for the beginning of October; NSSC to help FOREM with planning and execution of the event
- Possible changes to the year-end Nicholas School graduation ceremony
  - Talk with Cindy Peters and survey students on some aspects of the ceremony, including gowns, cords, announcement of all certificates, and reading Master's Project titles
- Funding requests
  - Vote to reduce \$500 group funding limit to \$300: unanimous yes
  - Vote to approve Virginia's request: unanimous yes