

Nicholas School Student Council
Meeting Minutes March 4, 2008:

Graduation Speaker:

The Graduation Speaker will be Dr. Orr

Mallory Dimmit has a system in place to determine the student speaker. It includes emailing the student body with requests for nominations. It is unclear at this point how the speaker is then selected, whether it is Cindy Peters or by vote

Mentor Program

Ben Landis mentioned his hope to initiate a mentor program such that second years can advise first years on class choices. The best method to initiate this program was discussed as second years are currently working on their MPs and must devote considerable time to this.

Friday March 21 and Friday March 29th were discussed as possible dates, it was mentioned there is a graphics module on the 21st and people worried there would not be time to fit both module and the mentor program in.

The possibility of creating two different times was then mentioned, one for just first years to talk to each other and the second for second years to offer advice.

Various dates and times were debated

Finally it was determined that Friday March 21 before the Keg would be the best time, with second one following on lunch the following Monday

Meeting With Lynn Maguire:

Mary Green, Ben Landis and Mallory Dimmit discussed their recent meeting with Lynn Maguire, specifically mentioned last year's class survey was used at a faculty retreat Mallory talked about avenues of student complaints which include talking initially to the professor with whom one has a problem and secondly to a third party such as Lynn Maguire

It was mentioned that Emily Klein is taking over the education committee (from Lynn Maguire)

Joanna asked whether it was possible to give a new evaluation of a professor once the semester was passed.

An anonymous message board was also requested, but it was thought that using anonymity would not be an effective method of voicing complaints. It was said that instead of an anonymous message board and individual should first go to

- a. Program area rep
- b. A professor
- c. Lynn Maguire
- d. Student council

Speaker

The speaker coming to campus is Wallace J. Nichols

Students groups interested in reserving a booth for earth day were told to inform either Mary Greene or Ben Landis who would then notify the individual responsible for organizing the booths.

The booths are there for groups to provide information, attract attention and get people to join their group

Expense Reimbursement

Ben Landis outlined the miscellaneous reimbursement form.

It is necessary to bring the form and the receipt and show Julie so she knows of all expenses. Then the receipt should be taken to Deborah Wilson

Brown Bag Lunch Series

This series will be added to the general skills modules as an “All you need to know about” session. The idea is to come away with “quick and dirty” knowledge about certain skill sets without having to take an entire class

Mallory and Ben will be sending out a survey , but any topic interests should be sent to Ben

 If you know a good professor, or anyone in the student body with a certain set of professional skills

Fridge Clean Up

Mallory and Joanna will clean up Fridge. From now on food left out over the weekend will be thrown away

 Other issues include cleanliness of microwave and sink. Mary will send out a friendly “reminder” that this is a common area that need to be clean

Ben brought up the possibility of a lottery system so that every one is responsible for general kitchen clean up

Volunteer Day

Discussion about volunteer day was included in talks about new students arriving

Volunteer day will be organized in the coming weeks

 people should start brainstorming ideas about volunteer day

 Other projects that are important for new students include the letter mailed out with basic details about classes and Durham

 It should NOT take prerequisites at Duke this will be reemphasized in the letter

Orientation Week

There is interest in improving orientation week for incoming students so that it is not quite so hectic and overwhelming

 Ideas were thrown out such as group bike rides, and convincing new students to move in earlier by throwing an “early arrival” get together such as hosting a keg in the courtyard

Heather and Jason mentioned that last year they tried to get involved but ended up simply deciding to show up for the dates and see what they could do then.

Nick then agreed to gather a list of students interested in working on orientation week. He will email Erica and start the process

Lab Clean Up

Corrie curtice expressed interest in a lab clean up... so that it was not so dirty for students