

EAG Leads the Way to NCSSM's Future

CONNIE CHU

The Ethical Awareness Group (EAG) has been one of the most active clubs on campus this year, having hosted a statewide ethics conference this past fall, sponsored numerous discussions throughout the year, and officially ratified a school honor code.

"The significance of voting in the school's first honor code is a milestone," said Danielle Mouw. "The fact that ethics has been brought to the table as a matter of significance among our student body is promise for our future students. Working in any sense towards a community that can sustain one day, almost entirely off of trust, is not in a sense, an 'ideal' or unattainable goal now that the ball has gotten rolling. The honor code is our platform off of which to jump, and the sky is our limit."

Current EAG members revised the honor code from last year at a retreat held on February 27. The changes included making the pledge in the present tense, saying "I am" instead of "I will be" honest, etc., and adding a point about being respectful toward the campus environment. Copies of the new honor code were available outside the PFM during the code's ratifi-



Danielle Mouw

Dr. Reidy leads the EAG in discussion of ethics during the EAG retreat by secret ballot on March 8-9. Support was shown by over two thirds of the students and staff who voted.

"[W]e have orchestrated the proper backing that the honor code is due and have set the course for future activity," said Adam Preslar. "One of the more interesting things on the table is the idea to make signing the honor code an annual thing and to record the signatures on a banner or in a book for posterity's sake. I know that there were those who were very strongly opposed to the honor code, and they had their reasons, but it was imperative that the honor code be ratified to show the student body's support of us and what we stand for."

"The Honor Code is a

document that is not just merely words. It states what many NCSSM students already believe in," added Yolanda Fair.

Other issues discussed at the EAG retreat included club publicity, activities for next year, and the eventual establishment of an Honor Council. On March 18, EAG members presented their plan for the Honor Council to the Board of Trustees, who were very supportive of the idea. Currently, the goal is to have a set-up of seven members who would be elected after an application process, including an interview, at the end of their junior year. Though not an official leadership position (Honor Council membership does not fulfill a work service requirement), training would be

required and take place a week prior to the start of school. The Honor Council would be composed of students with no favoritism shown to those already part of EAG. However, as noted by many current EAG members, "Our hopes are that this Council will be able to be headed by an EAG member and maintain partnerships with the faculty who sponsor us."

The Honor Council would work with the hearing board, which serves at the Level hearings, to decide sanctions and would join with the MPCs to do peer mediation. It is intended to deal with smaller level infractions and aid in addressing problems with students who have broken the honor code. The Council would "serve as a resource ... to help reconcile the student with the community," say EAG members. "We want to stress that this is about peer to peer accountability, 'mediation and reconciliation,' and simply stressing awareness and establishing stronger partnerships through direct outreach to students and by forming working relationships with staff."

"People can get involved [with EAG] by taking initiative," said Danielle Mouw. "Anyone can simply come to our meetings. We hope to

have by then end of the year a set meeting time and place posted on AtAGlance so that those who are interested can simply come, but if you ever have interest, feel free to contact us. Also, by simply participating in our open discussions, or posting comments on the Forum, you take part in what our club stands for, and that is ultimately what we are aiming for in the future: a more active student body."

"Working with EAG makes me feel like I am part of something important, something big," said Eva Panjwani. "In the future, I hope to see EAG have a positive presence on campus - similar to that of MPCs or RLAs."

"[EAG] is a club that has created something that could affect NCSSM forever," agreed Yolanda Fair. "[T]he group is able to bring up ethical issues and get the students thinking."

"I hope that our club will continue to make ethical awareness an underlying support to the NCSSM community," added Adam Preslar. "Why wouldn't you want to be involved in a group that is and will be shaping NCSSM in terrific ways with the ideas and programs that we are pursuing?"

New SGA, New Plans

SARA WISE

In May, the responsibilities of the NCSSM Student Government Association were passed to the five recently elected members of the executive committee, under the new leadership of President Thomas Christy. So far, the transition has been smooth, as the President has worked with Vice President Victoria Park, Secretary Sam Abumoussa, Treasurer Haolan Cai, and Parliamentarian Han Zhang to end the year with a bang.

In the fall, expect strong leadership and big changes from the new SGA. Next year will be the twenty-fifth year of our school, and such an event calls for celebration.

As the SGA plans for an exciting start to the school year, they're also aware of the long-term issues. One particular priority of the executive officers is the support of the tuition grant.

"It's not just about keeping students in state," explains Thomas Christy. "The issue is getting quality education to students who deserve it and who have proven that they are capable of overcoming obstacles."

In addition to achieving ideal long-term goals, there are also several bread-and-

butter issues on the table. For students who can't seem to stomach anything more than the bread from the cafeteria, there's hope.

"If there's so much emphasis on the Sleep, Nutrition, and Exercise Initiative, I can't understand why there isn't more pressure to have decent food in the cafeteria," notes Thomas Christy.

Other hungry NCSSM students might also be satisfied by the plan to create discount cards to local food businesses. Ideally, students should be able to purchase the discount cards for around \$10 or \$12. Although proceeds will help raise funds for the SGA, students who save money using the cards will be the ones benefiting in the long run.

Similar fund raisers just might spell success and popularity for the new SGA, since profits could go to projects such as replacing equipment in the PEC and allotting more money to clubs.

To connect with the student community and improve communication, more frequent and current e-mails regarding the developments made by the SGA should reach students faster, prevent-

ing a repetition of something like the amendment controversy, among other things. The SGA also plans on utilizing our school radio to increase contact with the student body.

The executive officers hope that students will take advantage of the Student Initiative Committees to get directly involved in issues like Internet, in-room policies, and nutrition. Although these committees have existed this year, most students really haven't been aware of them. With more communication, the SGA hopes that student involvement will increase.

But the new SGA won't be serious all of the time. New exciting activities are being considered for next year, such as school-wide capture the flag games and other outdoor activities.

As the new leaders of the SGA start planning the future of the school, Thomas Christy believes that the executive officers will make a successful team.

"Although we all have our different priorities, I believe that we can all reach a consensus to determine what is best for the NCSSM community."

"Puppy," continued from Page 1

also spending more time working in the evenings and on the weekends. Teachers have also noticed that the number of sleep-deprived students has gone down; however, the range of students not doing homework has increased, even though the mean has not. With all that free time, why is homework not being done?

However, the most striking thing found in this survey is that even with more time and other beneficial statistics about the trimester, mean satisfaction of teachers has gone from 80% overall to 62% with the trimester. This difference is even more obvious in the Science Department, which now shows a 32% satisfaction rating. This begs the question, why aren't the survey questions reflecting this attitude? Why are there no questions concerning class size comparisons or the amount of material covered under the trimester as opposed to the semester?

At a meeting on May 9th, the math faculty met to discuss the objectives of the trimester, and whether or not these objectives have been met. The faculty outlined two primary problems from this year: (1) the absence of new courses, and (2) changes in graduation requirements.

Originally, trimesters were supposed to offer stu-

dents more course opportunities; however, in the words of a long standing faculty member at Science and Math, "this hasn't happened." Instead, many courses have just been given new names or been modified slightly, and students have been forced to take classes they don't want to take because there is nothing left open. The reason for these problems is the need for more teachers and the strict overload policy, which often stops students from taking the courses that interest them.

Secondly, the changes in the graduation requirements have made it easier for students to graduate with fewer courses in science and math. According to one faculty member, "students are taking classes again in college because they only took 2/3 of the course here, [making it] hard to meld with the college program." For instance, students are no longer required to take the last trimester of chemistry or calculus to graduate, and many classes like Discrete Math have had sections cut to fit into a trimester. Another teacher added, "All these side effects add up."

So, does the trimester system kill puppies? Clearly the literal answer is no, but the jury is still out on its effects on the health of NCSSM.