

Board of Trustees Meeting

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT



North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

September 22, 2023

NCSSM Morganton

NCSSM Morganton

This past month and a half, NCSSM Morganton Student Government has welcomed new students onto campus and hosted many events to get them accustomed, and interested in joining our Student Government. Ice Breakers, Student Government Meet and Greets, and Senate Meetings have shown an impressive amount of interest in Student Government. Student Government anticipates a competitive and lively election and expects a passionate team of Junior Senators and Dorm Senators. Throughout the summer, the Morganton Campus has transitioned into a fully operational and independent government, working hard on our website, rechartering clubs specific to our campus, and organizing funding. We passed our campuses first funding request just last week, and are ready for so many more firsts.

Website Updates

The first week of school, the Morganton Campus's [Student Government website](#) was published. The Bylaws, members, and club chartering information has been added, and Senate Meeting and Internal Operations notes will be updated regularly. The website includes links to the Student Government's Instagram account, a Calendar with all events, and a feedback form. Committee applications will be put up within the next week, and there are plans to have an SG newsletter weekly or biweekly to update the Student Body about upcoming events and invite collaboration.

Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee is working towards supporting the people involved in academics. They are planning to have a teacher appreciation day before the second semester. The day will be an opportunity for students to show thanks to the excellent faculty at NCSSM Morganton by writing letters to them. Last year, many students were unaware of Teacher's Day, and student involvement in the day would be more meaningful to faculty. Academic Affairs plans to have SAT transportation. If there are test center openings, juniors, especially those far from test centers, would greatly benefit from the convenience of SAT transportation.

Student Affairs Committee

At the end of the summer, Student Affairs kicked off the school year early by opening the first annual junior and senior siblings program. This event allowed each junior to be paired with a willing senior in order to acclimate them to the responsibilities and opportunities that NCSSM offers. With 217 students of the 300 in the student body paired, the first program by the NCSSM-Morganton was a success. Following the announcement of each pairing, juniors were invited to the icebreaker event held via Zoom one week prior to their move-in, giving them the opportunity to meet peers, ask questions regarding campus, and learn more about our Student Government. Throughout the move-in process, the Co-Chairs of Student Affairs met to determine the timeline of pre-approved events throughout the first semester. Some of these included a security meet and greet, ice cream socials, hall Olympics, notes of kindness, and a series of senior events. While these are still pending approval, plans have begun for the largest event of the year, the Culture Festival. We are working diligently with Student Life, the Asian Cultures Association, the Latin American Cultures Club, the Black Student Union, and NAISA, among others. The event aims to showcase NCSSM Morganton's diverse students and light up our beautiful Barn with music, food, and dancing.

Sustainability and Improvement Committee

The Campus Improvement and Sustainability Committee at NCSSM-Morganton has begun the process of hosting various events and long-term projects on campus. A student has received funding to start a pollinator garden on campus for an Eagle Scout project and communications about starting this project on campus are soon to begin. There is a drafted email to the student body regarding using sidewalks instead of walking along the grass to limit the amount of habitat destruction on campus which will be sent to the student body next week. Hall competitions are being planned to encourage recycling and awareness regarding energy and water consumption. Working on images to be cycled through on TVs around campus to encourage sustainable practices on campus. A night-time insect appreciation series for moths will be starting once ISEF forms are completed and materials are collected.

Internal Operations Committee

The Internal Operations Committee has been working hard going through the Club Charter Form and Sponsor Confirmation Form. They have written the bills, to charter clubs, that have been proposed in weekly senate meetings. Approximately 35 clubs have been chartered/re-chartered on campus already. The committee will be continuing to charter clubs on campus and hope to receive Club Charter Forms from more juniors.

Health and Safety Committee

The Health and Safety committee has been working with the Wellness counselor as well as the Peer Counseling Coordinators to organize the Wellness Wednesdays for the 2023-2024 school year. These Wellness Wednesdays will be the main mental health awareness events on campus which will take place on campus weekly. There are plans for different stress relief activities like making slime, painting, and spending time outside. The Health and Safety Committee is organizing other events that will happen monthly or bi-monthly.

Elections

Plans for elections have been set. By the time the Board of Trustees meeting on the 22nd comes, almost the entirety of Student Government positions will be filled for NCSSM Morganton's 1st term. The Junior Senator Elections began on Monday, September 11th and the pre-election process was due the following Saturday. Around 29 juniors were added to the ballot. The Primaries started Tuesday the 19th, and the General election opened yesterday, Thursday the 21st after candidate speeches in the Library. results will be released today at 10 PM. Dorm Senator elections will follow soon after, and will be sooner than they were last year in order to maximize Student Government's abilities and move on to major projects and start committees.

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The NCSSM Durham campus has started the year strongly. The juniors have quickly adapted to campus life, and have formed diverse friend groups that liven up campus life. We have hosted activities to introduce them to their peers, SG, and clubs on campus. As for renovations, everyone is eager for the re-opening of the PFM. With the ETC Auditorium closed, cultural club officers are seeking alternatives to hosting cultural fests this year. The options being reviewed are off-campus venues, and the more safer option of using the PEC. Farmer's Market Loops are slated to continue this year.

Website Updates

The decision to have Morganton and Durham SGAs was made during the summer. The NCSSM Durham SG website (sg.ncssm.edu) has been updated throughout the summer and the school year. This involved updating the listed SG members, form links, dates, and more to accurately reflect the information of the 43rd Session of SG. Our Director of IT has plans to continually update the club browser, show information regarding budget and spending, and promote initiatives of SG members on the website.

Academic Affairs Committee

Reached out to schedule meetings with Dr. Teachey and other staff relevant to the scope of Academic Affairs. Plans to have a TA database, and push for a universal assignment deadline across all academic departments.

Student Affairs Committee

This committee hosted the Icebreakers during the summer. It was a great success, and it allowed for students to form friendships even before stepping on campus. Senior Sunrise, Jeopardy Night, and the first lock-in is being planned in collaboration with the Executive Board.

Campus Improvement and Renovations Committee

This committee is currently in the process of ordering its priorities for the year. As of right now, they are working on a plan to switch lighting in halls to motion sensor technology, to cut down on energy waste. Collaborating with the Electrical Vehicles Club and Executive Board, we are working on a plan to switch to electrical vehicles for transportation between the Durham and Morganton campuses, with the intention of cutting down on emissions and hopefully saving money to the school. A cost-benefit analysis is currently underway.

Internal Operations Committee

Last year's Outreach and Accessibility Committee was transformed into the Outreach Committee. This was done to prevent accessibility, a topic that is the foreground of renovation discussions, from taking extreme precedence over outreach. Accessibility has been annexed to the Mental Health and Accessibility Committee, as there is much more overlap between these two topics.

Elections

We are currently in the process of selecting the Elections Board. The Junior Senator Elections process will start on September 11th, 2023, and the Dorm Senator Elections will start on October 8th, 2023. There will be diagrams to explain how the elections and the rules work, and it will be updated onto the website.

UNC Association of Student Governments (UNCASG)

NCSSM Durham and Morganton combined will be allowed to have six delegates, but only four voting delegates. The first meeting was on September 8th-9th, 2023 at Fayetteville State University. This included discussions of the ASG budget for meals and travel, as well as discussion of initiatives around fighting cyberbullying on anonymous social media platforms. Topics of discussion on the summer meetings of the Council of Student Body Presidents included affirmative action, reproductive health, and ways to promote engagement within ASG in general.