

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the
Illinois State University NSTA Student Chapter
 Thursday, August 28, 2003
 Revised and approved September 4, 2003

The organizational meeting of the Illinois State University NSTA Student Chapter was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in 307-B Moulton Hall by presider Rebecca Wenning. Also in attendance were Tom Walczak, Ntarka Kinal, Will Hatch, Zoë Paukstys, Krysta Rozanski, and Physics Teacher Education coordinator Carl Wenning. Rebecca welcomed everyone, and had them introduce themselves. She then gave a brief overview of the focus of the NSTA Student Chapter. She provided a handout that explained the NSTA mission statement, conditions for forming and benefits of belonging to an NSTA student chapter, a sample student chapter constitution, and application forms. Rebecca then provided a summary of the mechanics of getting a student organization started and officially recognized by the University.

Among the goals of the Chapter she described three majors things: (1) improve teacher candidate content knowledge, (2) improve teacher preparation generally, and (3) provide for useful socialization. After a brief discussion of these goals, Rebecca then provided examples of activities with which the ISU Student Chapter could be involved. Carl pointed out that the activities, while they also could be altruistic, should always in some way benefit the membership. Everyone then began to work in small groups to white board ideas. Following about 20 minutes of small-group discussion, teams presented the following concerns and ideas for possible chapter themes and activities:

<p>Needs/concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worried about teaching • Employment opportunities • Knowing science content outside of major area of study for new (July 1, 2004) state certification examination • Preparing for and passing all required certification exams (basic skills, pedagogy, and content) • Good advisement: knowing the what, when, where, and how behind the myriad of teacher certification requirements • Reciprocity of teaching certificates • Things to do during summer to become a better teacher beside merely taking course work (workshops, internships, and other connections) • Create a chapter web site with current events, current issues hyperlinks, link to NSTA web site 	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice teaching • Discuss current issues in education • Lesson study project: creating science lessons and teaching them to the student of the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center • Practice exams with review of results and correct answers • “comparative” science teaching techniques • Share random interesting facts about your science discipline • Obtain access to current textbooks commonly used in Illinois schools • Scholastic competitions • Tutoring opportunities at both University High School and ISU • Role playing (the famous “fortune cookie” exercises of PTE) • Writing and conducting labs • Exhibiting science demonstrations • Student-faculty socials
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Following these presentations, Rebecca asked everyone to give some thought to prioritizing needs/concerns and activities. At the next meeting the above ideas will be reviewed and decisions made in relation to prioritization.

After this round of presentations and a brief discussion, it was noted that Rebecca had created a temporary ISU NSTA Student Chapter website with the following URL: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/nstasc/nstasc.html>. Members were asked to visit this web site and make recommendations for both expansion and improvement.

It was the group consensus that the organizational team meet weekly at least until the organization was formally up and running. The next meeting was slated for Thursday, September 4, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in Moulton Hall, room 307-B. This meeting will be advertised so that additional student members can be encouraged to join the group. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Wenning, Secretary Pro Tem