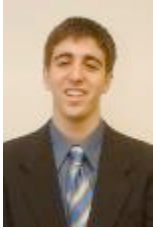


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Jordan Giordano

NCCU-Duke students team up

Iza Wojciechowska

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Student leaders from Duke and North Carolina Central University met over dinner to discuss potential collaboration between the two schools at Monday's InterCommunity Council meeting.

Last semester, students from both universities met to talk about relations following the lacrosse scandal, but now the students are looking beyond a relationship forged by crisis, hoping to foster a sense of community between the two Durham schools, leaders from both schools said.

"Now we're taking the next step," said ICC President Jordan Giordano, a sophomore. "We're looking at how our student groups can work together and collaborate to have the best possible relationship."

About 50 leaders--including representatives from student governments, fraternities, sororities and other organizations--spent time talking to each other in small roundtable discussions to establish ideas for working together in the future.

No such organized meeting had been held at Duke up to this point, but students from both schools were pleased with the outcome and enthusiastic about the schools' prospective interaction.

"We're bringing our student leaders together, and I don't think that's ever been done before," said NCCU senior Mukhtar Raqib, Student Government Association president. "It's monumental."

Although conversations between the two universities' student leaders are just beginning, they have already begun to formulate plans for bringing the two student bodies together.

Student leaders intend to hold Unity Fest Oct. 15 at the American Tobacco Complex to allow students at Duke and NCCU to come together and mingle with each other.

"I'm very, very excited about this upcoming school year and working with Duke," said NCCU sophomore Kent Williams, SGA speaker pro tempore and senator.

"We want this to continue not just with one meeting, but that we continue having events on each other's campuses," he added.

Both groups of students said they hope informal meetings will continue and relationships will flourish, both on a university level and on a more personal level.

"We'd really like it to also be more of an individual thing," Giordano said. "Sorority with sorority, fraternity with fraternity-that's really where this is going."

Those in attendance also hoped to form personal friendships rather than just working relationships.

"This isn't just a group discussion," said junior Elliott Wolf, Duke Student Government president.

"It's about people meeting each other and exchanging information with the hope that they'll continue their relationship," he added.

All leaders said they hope student groups can take initiative to work with their counterparts at the other school.

"We want people at Duke and people at Central who essentially do the same things on each campus to collaborate," Wolf said. "The whole idea is that we want tangible things to come out of our relationship."

Dining Services paid for Monday's meeting to be catered by Q-Shack.

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