101st Undergraduate Student Senate

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Undergraduate Student Government

15 October, 7:30 pm

Gardner 309

1. Call to Order
   1. 7:35
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
   1. Point of inquiry regarding “demographic origins” language used in SACC nominee considerations. Henson explained that there was concern with representation on the committee regarding in state and out of state students.
4. State of the University Address - Interim Chancellor Guskiewicz
   1. Chancellor Guskiewicz shared his experience within the school: serving as a faculty member, department head, dean, and now interim chancellor. During his time as chancellor, he has undergone a “listening and learning” tour visiting each school, the departments, and the libraries. He shared his wishes for Carolina and desire to collaborate with UNC leadership to continue to add to the university’s future.
   2. He shared about University Day and the speakers who shared their service projects, programs, and developments to better the lives of students and the university as a whole. He also spoke about the importance of representing all 100 counties of North Carolina in our student body. Additionally, he will be undertaking a three-day bus tour of North Carolina. This is in an effort to showcase the work people are doing around the state and share it with students on our campus.
   3. In November, a new strategic plan called “Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good” with eight priorities to better the university. The first of those being, “Building Community”. This will place an effort on diversity and inclusion to better showcase UNC’s interests and to make students feel comfortable on our campus. Others will focus on globalization, modernizing the student experience, bridging the gap between academic advising and career advising, renewing democracy and placing emphasis on civic duty. He wishes to launch new programs that will be uniquely Carolina. Finally, he touched on the importance of diversity to him and the emphasis he has placed on it during his career, referencing the first priority of the new initiative.
   4. Questions:
      1. Expanding Carolina Covenant program to other schools in the UNC system (Douderman)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewicz shared his pride in our successful program as it's nearing its sixteenth year. He knows that other schools in the system and around the country are hoping to adopt similar programs to UNC.
      2. UNC football stadium sales (Wiener)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics explained that the profits will go to Carolina Covenant, faculty excellence fund to help carry out research and support grad students, and various student affairs and improving campus health initiatives (specifically on alcohol awareness)
      3. Results of the Sexual Assault Survey (Henson)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics shared his concern with the results of the survey. He hopes to look at what has been done regarding the issue. And hopes to put together a coalition of students, faculty, and staff to put into place new programs to better address student concerns.
      4. University’s relationship with media (national and local)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics shared his belief in the importance of the media. He shared how he has opened his doors to the Daily Tar Heel and other local outlets. He shared his openness to ideas in improving the university’s online persona and is open to suggestions as to how best to do that.
      5. Town of Chapel Hill Greenways
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics shared his wish to work with the town of Chapel Hill and the new Police Chief. He shared their mutual wish to improve and maintain safety on campus. He shared his concern for recent events regarding sexual assault on campus (ShortBread Apartments). And they have wished to put into place more lighting and security measures to improve safety on and around campus.
      6. Will UNC be a leader in Open Resource Textbooks
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics shared his recent involvement in the matter and his efforts to observe other universities who are implementing it. He says he and his team are currently just exploring the logistics of this area at the moment.
      7. Committee for Public Discourse worries (Beene)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics shared the recent debates over the committee itself with he and his faculty. He believes the committee is balanced and its intentions are not to influence Conservative thought on campus. As he has talked with student groups, he has seen a desire to improve intellectual discourse among students in varying areas. He appreciates the use of open debate (touching specifically on a course taught at UNC) to create common ground and to improve conversations between differing groups.
      8. Bringing more unique majors being implemented (Gee)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics expressed his love for a “Carolina degree”: its versatility, its depth, and its application. He hopes to be a resource for students wishing to bring new and unique majors to UNC during his time as chancellor.
      9. Plans to ensure victims feel safe on campus (Uguru)
         1. Chancellor Guskiewics believes we need students to share and seek out campus resources to improve their situations on campus. Additionally, he hopes to put into place new programs if the current ones are not sufficient. He expressed the willingness of he and his office to listen to students and their needs.
5. Public Comment Period
6. Receipts of Petitions and Messages
   1. Messages from the Student Body President
   2. Messages from the USG Vice President
      1. She thanked committees for hearing her appointments and their engagement in Senate. Her upcoming appointee for the Student Supreme Court will be heard at tonight’s Senate and she hopes Senate passes him.
      2. Every advisory committee is currently running and taking meetings to meet with faculty.
      3. SACC updates: strategic plans for the university
   3. Messages from the USG Treasurer
      1. Thanks to the Finance Committee for passing its first round of funding.
      2. SFAC updates regarding a recommendation for a student referendum regarding one of the student fees. The fee in question would be the one for the Be A Maker Space (BEAM), formerly funded by the Chancellor, but as there is no current chancellor, the fee would be placed on students. They are working to fund the spaces without placing the burden on students while the university searches for a new chancellor.
      3. Thanks to those who have been involved with SFAC
   4. Messages from the USG Director of State and External Affairs
      1. She shared information on the Chapel Hill local election on November 5th
      2. Orange County precincts being combined for on campus living to make voting simpler for students.
      3. Campus and Community Coalition is creating its plan for the next 10 years. A forum will be hosted in the upcoming weeks to ensure student concerns are being voiced and heard.
   5. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Attorney General
   6. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor Court Chair
   7. Messages from the Undergraduate Senate Faculty Advisor
      1. He thanked senators for their involvement thus far
      2. He introduced the last speaker for the Congress and the writer of the current Student Code that Senate is currently operating under
      3. Concerns for elections:
         1. Spending caps: through his involvement with other student governments across the country, he’s seen this be both an advantage and a disadvantage. Look into making spending caps more inclusive and the process simpler to understand for students.
         2. RSO 50%+1: his office collects the data, but this would impact organizations who do not submit their data to his office. Representation of organizations will potentially decrease if that impacts potential funding.
         3. Serves as a Chair for the Board of Elections: he encourages Senators to collaborate with the Board of Elections to create a common set of election standards and to create simpler language for potential candidates to follow.
         4. Food: student organizations have access to funds regarding food outside of Undergraduate Senate. He encourages Senate to keep that in mind, to ensure funds are being appropriated well. Additionally, food funding also has several intricacies for reimbursements that could complicate processes in the future that Senate should consider when appropriating funds.
         5. Creating a survey for students, to potentially replace town halls, through his office in order to gather sufficient data to inform USG on student concerns.
         6. Questions
            1. Regarding food (Dauderman)

He shared the details surrounding food and its funding.

* + - * 1. Process for obtaining outside food funds (Henson) and ensuring the system works for RSOs

The funding through this website, through the Student Organization Council, is open all year and is thoroughly explained through the Carolina Union website. It allocates around $10,000 a year. This system is shared at Officer Orientation and open to organizations throughout the semester.

The questioning for appropriations is similar to that of the Finance Committee

* + - * 1. Finance Committee appropriating food vouchers

Under the University policy, this form of funds is illegal.

* + - * 1. Working to bridge the gap between organizations and the Student Organization Council

Working with Finance to collaborate

* + - * 1. University Ammunition policy (Beene)

Three UNC attorneys are currently working on this project

* + - * 1. Regarding the upcoming food bill

Shared how historically, help will be given through his office in order to fund Senate food and apparel and that is willing to do so in the future.

* 1. Messages from the Board of Elections Chair
     1. He shared his experience on the Board of Elections and thanked senators for their collaboration with the bill regarding special elections over University breaks. He believes that the BOE should be involved with election related bills and that cooperation should improve.
     2. Issues with current bills (80,100,81)
        1. Bills 80 and 100 have been withdrawn
        2. Bill 81: to increase participation and for organizations to have a minimum voter turnout to receive funding in the next cycle.
           1. This requires the BOE to give PIDs to Senate. This will result in several privacy issues. He understands the concern regarding low voter turnout and hopes to collaborate with Senate in the future regarding election related bills.
        3. He expressed the desire of the BOE to work with Senate to improve elections.
        4. Questions:
           1. Chair Henson encouraged him to attend the Rules and Judiciary Committee and for him (BOE representative) to be added to the Senate Listserv
           2. Senator Beene (author of the bill) shared his intent regarding the PID language and expressed his confusion regarding sharing PIDs with Senate. BOE should’ve been involved.
           3. Concerns with Senate seeking to alter issues outside of Senate’s jurisdiction

1. Reports of the Officers of Senate
   1. Ethics Committee Chair's Report
      1. Attendance records are being created and will be updated
      2. Senator Wright encouraged Senators to take the Onboarding Test
   2. Oversight & Advocacy Committee Chair's Report
      1. Chair Wiener shared that all appointments were heard. He also introduced the new O&A legislative assistant.
      2. New projects: working on improving hardship parking with executive branch and working with GSPF with gathering data to increase the Campus Health Fee
   3. Rules & Judiciary Committee Chair’s Report
      1. Chair Henson and committee heard nominees for
         1. Supreme Court nominee is on Unfavorable Calendar for
         2. An unprecedented number of bills presented at the preceding committee meeting
         3. Addressed the Veto Legislation and the unclear nature of it
            1. He encourages Senators to override the veto tonight in order to ensure Senators are maintaining their position throughout the year
   4. Finance Committee Chair's Report
      1. 40 on the calendar Finance Bills on the Consent Calendar for tonight. Committee is operating under budget. They have appropriated over $223,000 thus far. The committee is looking forward to funding more organizations throughout the semester
   5. Speaker Pro Tempore's Report
      1. Unable to attend committees this past week due to personal conflicts
   6. Speaker's Report
      1. JGC and Board of Directors meeting attended. In collaboration with JGC , he will continue to gather information regarding the public discourse program and its implications
2. Veto Messages from the Student Body President/USG President
   1. USB-101-025 VETO MESSAGE - SBP MARTIN
      1. Her message regarding this bill was shared. She explained her reasoning behind vetoing the bill. She believes that more students should vote and be involved in the process but that it should come through improving the Carolina voting community rather than setting a barrier to entry. She hopes to see a new bill created that will address improving the campus election community.
3. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting
4. Special Orders
   1. USB-101-025 VETO OVERRIDE
      1. 20 minute debate period
         1. Wiener: the threshold of 25 votes is an arbitrary number. He believes that knowledge within senate is not informed enough and more should be learned about elections. He will not override the SBP veto.
         2. Javvadi: creating a more significant threshold, collaborating with BOE with this. Echoes sentiments of Ashton and Wiener in improving campus culture regarding participation. He will be reaching out to BOE. don’t override veto. Need more data
         3. Gee: Expressed concerns over lack of data and information about minimum threshold number.
         4. Henson: realize what can and cannot be regulated. There are limitations to reforming campus culture. Shared his experience with Senate and how in the past having only 12 senators was, he felt, sufficiently representative. Explained his concerns with Special Election candidates and how they can receive less than 10 votes at times. He believes that there should be some minimum for senate to ensure responsibility and accountability exists. He believes that some form of personal responsibility is necessary for Senate to function efficiently and maintain quorum.
         5. Beene: Explained that the minimum of 25 votes is not arbitrary because that is the number of signatures a potential candidate must have to appear on the ballot.
         6. Wiener: Explained how he feels the number of votes obtained is not directly correlated to your involvement in senate. He does not feel setting a minimum threshold of votes will address participation concerns. He instead proposes improving the culture of Senate and better engaging one another.
         7. Dauderman: He discouraged the speaking ill of unpresent senators by those present.
         8. Javvadi: He echoed Wiener’s point to creating a more inclusive Senate to ensure senators are seeking engagement each week. Ethics Committee will pursue the option of removing senators from attendance records to ensure quorum can be met.
         9. Evbuomwan: She shared her belief that creating more barriers to entry into Senate will not improve representation or participation.
         10. Beene: To combat Evbuomwan’s point, he challenged the ballot petition process of obtaining 25 signatures as a part of the election process.
         11. Gee: He does not see any strong argument for overturning the veto. He believes the bill will benefit from further development.
         12. Wiener: motion to end debate
         13. By a roll call vote, the veto was upheld
   2. USR-101-086 MINORITY REPORT
      1. Senator Barrett presented the report for the upcoming USR-101-086
      2. The Minority Report was passed
         1. USR-101-086 was moved from the Unfavorable Calendar to the General Orders Calendar
5. Unfavorable Calendar
   1. USR-101-086 TO AMEND CONSENT CALENDAR PROCEDURES
      1. **(PLACED PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF MINORITY REPORT)**
6. Consent Calendar
   1. USR-101-013 COSC ↓
   2. USR-101-014
   3. USR-101-015 COSC ↑
   4. USB-101-079 TO CODIFY THE R&J APPOINTMENT PROCESS
   5. USB-101-088 TO AMEND ELECTION REGULATIONS
   6. USR-101-089 SUSTA ↓
   7. USR-101-090 SUSTA ↑
   8. USR-101-092 HARDSHIP PARKING
   9. USR-101-093 SENATORIAL WXYC BOD
   10. USR-101-094 SENATORIAL SFAC
   11. USR-101-095 PRESIDENTIAL WXYC BOD
   12. USR-101-096 PRESIDENTIAL SFAC
   13. USR-101-097 HARDSHIP PARKING ↓
   14. USR-101-098 HARDSHIP PARKING ↑
   15. USR-101-099 SENATORIAL RESPC
   16. USB-101-103 FINANCE ↓
   17. USB-101-104 / USB-101-141
   18. USB-101-142 FINANCE ↑
   19. The Consent Calendar Failed
   20. The Consent Calendar has been appended to the General Orders Calendar
7. Introduction of Concurrent Resolutions
   1. USR-101-101 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
      1. Maxwell Marant is potential nominee. In this role he will serve in this role and as Parliamentarian. He shared his desire to become involved in Carolina and to learn from Senate leadership and upperclassmen during his involvement.
      2. Nominee was approved
   2. The bills were passed
   3. USR-101-102 LGBTQ CENTER
      1. Bill was sponsored by Chair Wiener and Chief of Staff to improve funding to the center. He cited the lack of growth of funding for this center as the community has grown.
      2. The bill passed
8. USB-101-103 -142 (finance bills) to the consent calendar
9. General Orders Calendar
   1. USR-101-091 STUDENT SUPREME COURT
      1. The Vice President introduced her nominee and spoke favorably of him. He shared his feelings with being present in front of the senate.
         1. Questioning:
            1. Wiener: What do you believe the role of Student Supreme Court is? Nominee explained that the role is following the Code, maintaining relations, and responding to concerns raised by students and faculty
            2. Dauderman: how literal is your interpretation of the Code? Nominee responded with his belief that one should rely largely on the code but in certain, special cases judgement may be relied upon as well.
         2. The nominee was approved
10. Motion to move all bills regarding appointments to the beginning of the General Calendar
11. Motion to move all moved bills with unanimous consent. The appointments passed
    1. USB-101-080 ELECTION REGULATION REFORM
       1. withdrawn
    2. USB-101-081 RSO ELECTION PARTICIPATION
       1. withdrawn
    3. USR-101-087 TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES
       1. Chair Henson presented the bill: The proposed bill would alter the rules for the Consent Calendar: if no more than five senators express concern with the Consent Calendar, it may pass. He believes this altering of the process will improve efficiency in the future and ensure no one senator has full authority over the calendar and/or the meeting.
       2. Questioning;
          1. Gee: point of inquiry regarding vote: by regular voice vote
          2. Wiener: Asked if there was a concern if bills on the Consent Calendar are not approved. Henson replied that this would not be an issue, he predicted, because discrepancies could be addressed during the public comment period
          3. Gee: is there the potential for controversial bills to be included on the consent calendar. Henson believes that those issues will be addressed during the public comment period. And that Senators should attend R&J to hear bills at the beginning of the process to make amendments and changes, rather than at full Senate meetings.
       3. Formal Debate
          1. Henson addressed Senator Gee’s concerns about not being able to attend R&J by being emailed or speaking one on one with Henson about forthcoming bills and activity of the committee.
          2. Dauderman: He expressed concern with the encouragement to attend R&J. He believes that this requirement is a hindrance to the debate nature of senate. He believes the Consent Calendar should be a unanimous vote and that any other option is a violation of Senate procedures.
       4. The resolution failed to pass
    4. USB-101-100 STUDENT POLITICAL PARTIES
       1. Withdrawn
    5. USB-101-085 TO ALLOW THE PURCHASE OF FOOD
       1. Returned to committee
    6. USR-101-086
       1. Regarding moving bills from Consent Calendar to General Orders Calendar in order to allow for debate of bills.
       2. Debate
          1. Dauderman: He expressed his concern with Consent Calendar and felt senators had pursued passing bills with too much haste rather than allowing for time to deliberate.
          2. Barret: He encouraged Dauderman to address his issues with the Code by writing bills to amend it
          3. Henson: He believes that this will create confusion and issues with bills being removed from the Consent Calendar by potentially one person. He sees issue with implementing minority rule.
          4. Wiener: He believes this issue fixes the issue of minority rule, referencing Dauderman. He believes this is a solution that will address current discrepancies presented.
          5. Dauderman: He reiterated the role of Senate as a legislative and deliberative body and the necessity for it to operate under Parliamentary procedure operates
          6. Wright: Parliamentary procedure was designed for the voice of all and that when it was written into the Standing Rules as unanimous consent, it was intended to uphold the tradition of the former Congress’s rules of procedures.
       3. The resolution was passed
    7. USB-101-079
       1. Henson: codifies the process R&J currently uses for approving nominees. He believes this will create continuity between sessions and inform nominees about the process
       2. Questioning
          1. Wiener: He questioned what will happen when leadership changes for this committee. Henson expressed his wish to create continuity and equitability from session to session.
          2. Dauderman: He questioned the three appointment meetings. Henson shared that there are at least three different meeting times for approving nominees and that he will work with those who cannot attend those meetings to give updates on candidates and committee proceedings.
          3. Dauderman: Questioned why this will only apply to R&J. Henson believes that other Chairs should follow his lead and implement their own rules but does not feel comfortable doing it himself, as he is only chair of R&J.
       3. Debate
          1. Dauderman: Expressed concern that if this is an issue, then why is not codified for all committees and questioned if it was appropriate to set a precedent for future R&J committee chairs. He believes the place for this type of subject area should be in the Standing Rules. He believes if this is an issue, it should be put into place for all committees, rather than just one.
          2. USG Treasurer: He expressed support for the efforts of Chair Henson to codify procedures in his committee. He has done the same with SFAC. However he did express his concerns with the bill. He proposed a potential amendment with the bill to work with USG VP in regard to what materials may be requested by R&J Chair from nominees and Executive Branch. He also expressed concern with Subsection G: absolves R&J Committee from legal responsibility.
             1. Henson: R&J is the only committee he feels comfortable creating and codifying procedural rules for but does encourage other chairs to follow his lead and do the same to create a more efficient approval process. He also shared his belief that able to absolve oneself and the committee as a whole is ethically feasible.
          3. USG Chief of Staff: Questioned the implications of application itself. Shared that is the responsibility of the USG Chief of Staff to create an application for Executive appointees. He felt if this bill were to pass, the content of Executive branch applications would be subject to the control of R&J and its Chair in the future. He proposed the potential for creating more collaboration between R&J and the Executive appointing office to improve applications and the process.
          4. USG VP: She believes having a codified process will help with continuity and transparency. She echoed concerns over the potential for R&J to acquire extensive information on candidates and subject the Executive Branch to the R&J Committee, rather than allowing for it to maintain its independence. She respects the check on appointments but sees this request as a potential hurdle because of the vague language. She does respect and understand the bill as a whole.
          5. Point of information- Dauderman: regarding Section F and the Chair’s ability to report without prejudice if a nominee does not attend a hearing.
             1. Henson: Explained how there is no certain appointment procedure necessary. He believes a committee should be allowed to ask questions and request supplemental material to ensure informed decisions are being made. He explained that his intent was for all materials gathered by the Executive Branch in their application process would be provided to R&J, not designated by them.
          6. Powell: She believes that this bill does not overstep checks and balances because it specifically addresses the right of the Executive have their own process for approving. She believes that whatever materials used for initial approval should be made available to R&J to make decisions as well.
          7. Dauderman: issue with “any material deemed necessary” as too broad and unilateral and could lead to issues in the future. Issue with votes through media. Issue with votes being taken through online resources. Believes this is too specific for one committee
          8. Henson:
             1. Friendly Amendment to strike the “and any other material deemed necessary” from the bill
       4. The bill passed
    8. USB-101-088
       1. Incorporating language from Joint Code into Undergraduate Code and granting BOE authority over Undergraduate elections
       2. Bill approved by consent
12. Notices and Announcements
13. Adjournment
    1. 10:15