101st Undergraduate Student Senate

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Undergraduate Student Government

29 October, 7:30 pm

Gardner 309

1. Two-Minute Addresses
2. Call to Order
   1. 7:34 pm
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from last Full Senate (10/15) have been tabled for review to be approved next Full Senate (11/5)
5. Receipts of Petitions and Messages
   1. Messages from the Student Body President
      1. Apologized for missing last Full Senate (10/22) due to personal reasons.
      2. Special Election by Executive Order will be held on 11/21 to fill vacant Senate seats.
         1. Board of Elections will be sending out the new training mechanism in the following weeks to update candidates.
         2. Senators are encouraged to notify friends and peers to participate in the upcoming election.
      3. Committee to approve the new chancellor is meeting tomorrow (10/30) the application process has closed and the search for a new chancellor will begin
         1. SBP will be updating Senate on the process as authorized
      4. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs forums will be held in the following weeks. These forums will be used to inform the selection process for a new Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.
      5. Safetober event was held today (10/29) and was a success.
      6. New Executive Branch video on safety is in the works and will be coming out soon.
      7. General Body meeting for the Executive Branch was held this past week.
         1. The next one will be 11/25 at 8pm in the Student Union. Senators are encouraged to attend if they are interested in learning about upcoming Executive programs.
      8. Chancellor Guskiewicz came and spoke with her administration regarding their ongoing projects and those of his administration as well.
   2. Messages from the USG Vice President
      1. Thanked Senate for their duties to committees, especially O&A and R&J for their approval of appointments.
      2. The Hardship Parking process is currently being reformed to improve efficiency and its functions. This is being done in collaboration with an O&A subcommittee ( headed by Senator Marinoni).
      3. Syllabus reform is being discussed with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
         1. Working to make it mandatory to include CAPS and other mental health resources available to students as a part of the class syllabus.
      4. Student Leadership Advisory Committee will conduct its next meeting on 11/1
      5. Next SACC meeting will be next Monday (11/4)
         1. The discussion will largely be centered around the AAU survey results. A coalition is being formed to discuss these results and updates will be given regarding its members and its goals after the upcoming meeting.
   3. Messages from the USG Treasurer
      1. Thanked finance committee for their funding of student organizations
      2. Tuition fee advisory task force meetings are ongoing
         1. Student needs are being addressed
         2. Referendum for the BEAM fee is upcoming (Chair Wiener and Speaker Wright will be emailed about specifics).
            1. Dauderman: point of inquiry regarding who oversees this fee process.

Treasurer: The altering and approving of fees falls under the jurisdiction of the Student Fee and Audit Committee.

Wiener: As chair of O&A, he will explain the role his committee plays in regards to student fees during his address.

* 1. Messages from the USG Director of State and External Affairs
     1. Panel about alcohol policy and culture on campus held (10/29)
        1. She is looking to create a new committee in collaboration with the town of Chapel Hill to include more student feedback regarding this issue.
     2. UNC will be applying to make OneCards a valid form of ID for elections.
        1. November 15 is the upcoming deadline for the school to apply.
           1. Point of information

Dauderman: The Executive Branch’s current update for active voter registration drives.

USG Director of State and External Affairs: These drives are currently ongoing. The next one will be held on 10/30 outside of Davis Library.

* + - * 1. Gee: why is the process still ongoing for OneCard approval to be a legitimate form of voter ID?

USG Director of State and External Affairs: UNC missed the deadline last spring and is looking to reapply this November.

* 1. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Attorney General
     1. Working on the upcoming Honor and Integrity Week with the Executive Branch
     2. Mock honor court trial is an upcoming event (featuring SBP)
        1. This mock trial will provide students an example of an Honor Court trial and how the process works.
  2. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor Court Chair
     1. Working on the upcoming Honor and Integrity Week with the Executive Branch
     2. Mock honor court trial is an upcoming event (featuring USG SBP)
        1. This mock trial will provide students an example of an Honor Court trial and how the process works.
  3. Messages from the Undergraduate Senate Faculty Advisor
  4. Papers Addressed to the Senate

1. Public Comment Period
   1. Chief of Staff:
      1. Spoke in favor of the Textbook Pledge
         1. This pledge will ensure UNC is on the path of to implement more affordable textbook options and class resources.
      2. Spoke in favor of the arts improvement resolution
         1. This bill will make recommendations to the Arts and Music Departments to ensure students pursuing a music related major are provided flexibility in their schedules and a fulfilling experience.
2. Reports of the Officers of Senate
   1. Ethics Committee Chair's Report
      1. He is currently going through onboarding data and will update Senate appropriately
      2. He will be emailing all senators tonight (10/29) with individual attendance reports and records
         1. In order to gather accurate information, he will be asking senators to review their attendance sheets to create more organized records.
            1. Once this process is complete, he will be updating senators who have too many unexcused absences with formal warnings
            2. He explained the process for senator attendance and absences.
      3. Onboarding form and the Student Code test have been emailed to all senators.
         1. All senators are required to pass these tests to legally be allowed to vote, per the Code.
         2. Treasurer’s test has not been made available to him as of yet, but will be sent out soon
            1. All senators are required to pass this test.
      4. He will be sending out a google form to gather general feedback regarding Senate and senators’ experiences thus far in order to improve meetings in the future.
      5. Point of Inquiry-Benissan: Regarding the current status of those senators who have passed the required tests.
         1. Ethics Committee Chair: The forthcoming email will include this information for each senator as well as attendance records.
      6. Point of Inquiry-Sina: Regarding absence allowances before a warning is issued
         1. Ethics Committee Chair: Explained the current process for such absences
      7. Point of Inquiry-Wiener: Will the attendance report reflect committee absences as well
         1. Ethics Committee Chair: No
      8. Point of Information Benissan: Those present at Fall Fest have been granted an additional absence
         1. Speaker Wright: He and Ethics Committee Chair will be applying these absences in the records.
      9. Safe Zone training certifications and attending meetings for organizations of which you are not a member can also grant senators additional excused absences
   2. Oversight & Advocacy Committee Chair's Report
      1. Committee has mostly finished their appointment process
         1. Still awaiting a few
      2. Senate still has some appointment openings
         1. Senators are encouraged to seek out peers to fill these seats
      3. Current O&A Projects:
         1. Reform of Hardship Parking subcommittee, in collaboration with USG VP is ongoing.
            1. The subcommittee will address the appointments made to the Hardship Parking Committee, the application process, and will seek to move this committee from one that is student run to faculty administered. They will also be working to create bills to make the application process for students more comprehensive.
         2. Working to gather more research on CAPS and other student health programs in order to write an informed recommendation for the upcoming fee increase.
         3. He explained how O&A is responsible only for auditing organizations, not student fees themselves (to provide a fuller response to Dauderman’s inquiry into the fee process).
         4. Encouraged senators to improve the environment of senate to bring in more representation and participation for future sessions
      4. Dauderman: Will the subcommittee for Hardship Parking be expanded to allow for more senator involvement
         1. O&A Committee Chair: It will not be expanded beyond its current members at this time. However those interested in becoming involved may reach out to him, USG VP, and/or Senator Marinoni.
   3. Rules & Judiciary Committee Chair’s Report
      1. No meeting was held last week (10/22) as no new business was brought forth
      2. A meeting to discuss the funding for food with Undergraduate Senate Faculty Advisor is upcoming.
      3. This upcoming committee meeting (11/5) will feature BOE representative regarding elections and rules.
      4. COSC appointment is upcoming
      5. A review for the audit code will be discussed in upcoming meetings.
      6. Questioning
         1. Dauderman: inquired as to why the audit code review was not discussed at the last committee meeting (10/22)
            1. R&J Chair: The review was assigned to the committee on that day and he wanted to afford members the time to review individually.
         2. Dauderman: Inquired as to why information related to bills sent back to committee at the last Full Senate (10/15) were not discussed at the last committee meeting (10/22) rather than the meeting being cancelled.
            1. R&J Chair: There was no new information given regarding the bills that could be discussed.
      7. Dauderman: motion to censure R&J Chair Henson
         1. Censure Chair Henson because of his cancellation of the last R&J committee meeting without sufficient notice prior to the meeting and against the claim of Chair Henson that there was no new business to conduct
            1. The censure failed
   4. Finance Committee Chair's Report
      1. 44 organizations on the consent calendar tonight to approve funding for
      2. Fourth and final funding meeting next week (11/5)
         1. Meetings are open to all senators to attend
      3. Encouraged senators to remain productive and work cohesively during Full Senate meetings to maintain professionalism and ensure efficiency
         1. Shared his recent absences from Senate have been due to both personal reasons and a lack of efficiency amongst senators at these meetings.
   5. Speaker Pro Tempore's Report
      1. Not present but will be attending committees next week (11/5)
   6. Speaker's Report
      1. Last meeting of JGC before public forum regarding public discourse
      2. CUAB board of directors meeting was attended by Senator Powell
      3. Research on CAPS and other mental health programs upcoming fee increase is being conducted.
         1. The recommendation will appear at the next meeting for GPSF and then will appear at the next Full Senate (11/12) for approval.
      4. SFAC meeting attended
         1. Heard from Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations
            1. He explained how funds donated to the university are spent and how some funds are slotted for certain departments and can only be spent on projects related to those designated departments.
      5. A compilation of open senate appointment seats will be sent out to fill open seats
         1. Low application turnout for both Senate and Executive Branch this year
3. Veto Messages from the Student Body President/USG President
4. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting
5. Special Orders
6. Unfavorable Calendar
7. Consent Calendar: PASSED
   1. USR-101-103 ↓ APPOINTMENTS
   2. USR-101-104 / USR-101-109
   3. USR-101-110 ↑ APPOINTMENTS
   4. USR-101-112 SENATORIAL SLS
   5. USB-101-114 ↓ FINANCE
   6. USB-101-115 / USB-101-156
   7. USB-101-157 ↑ FINANCE
8. Introduction of Concurrent Resolutions
   1. USR-101-113 TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY
      1. Senator Benissan presented the bill
         1. She is the Affordability Co-Chair in Executive Branch. They are currently working with professors and TAs to gather signatures to support a pledge to implement more affordable textbooks and course materials
            1. 317 signatures have been acquired for this pledge
         2. Demand of pledge: Requiring professors to research more affordable course materials (OER and library course reserves) and to share those affordable practices with their peers. And will require professors to communicate in a timely manner with students on the necessity of course materials prior to the beginning of the semester.
         3. Open textbooks are credible resources and are often peer reviewed; so they are a high quality alternative to other textbooks and course materials
         4. The committee is working with campus administrators and students throughout the years to bring more affordable textbooks to students at UNC.
      2. Questioning:
         1. Powell: Inquired as to who the 317 signatories were
            1. Benissan: primarily professors and few TAs
         2. Shroff: Inquired if the pledge will be building upon existing resources related to ensuring textbooks and resources are affordable
            1. USG SBP: Yes, it built upon NCPIRG’s pledges
      3. The resolution passed
   2. USR-101-158 MUSIC BACHELOR OF ARTS
      1. Senator Wiener presented the bill
         1. Chief of Staff touched on it the necessity for this resolution during the public period
         2. Executive Branch did a comparative analysis with other arts departments at comparable universities to see where UNC’s resources are lacking
            1. Bachelors in Arts for Music Majors offers less total hours than other schools, offers less specialization options, and requires a gateway course
            2. Students are consistently reporting that they are feeling unfulfilled with the current program

University response to students has been for them to pursue the BN degree in music, but this is a 65 credit hour major. This resolution will encourage the expansion of the BA major in this field to allow for students to garner more fulfillment out of it.

* + - 1. A more detailed Executive memo is forthcoming to outline more specifics.
      2. Questioning
         1. Powell: Inquired as to what the current majors offered are

Wiener: BA and BN are currently offered. The BN major is quite rigorous and the BA major is insufficient, to students and when compared to other institutions. This resolution will increase the credit hours for the BA to ensure students are provided a more comprehensive experience.

* + - * 1. Mosely: Inquired if this proposed alterations to the major will be comparable to peer universities

Wiener: The resolution will make the BA similar to other institutions

c. Shroff: who is this in collaboration with?

d. Speaking privileges were granted to a student advocate, Damon Blair

* + 1. Debate
       1. Shroff: Inquired as to how the new coursework requirements were created and who worked on them
          1. Damon Blair:: An analysis of peer institutions and student recommendations were used to create the new major requirements.
       2. Buttitta: Inquired as to why this was the method through which the major was seeking to be altered, rather than the traditional way of through the department.
          1. Damon Blair: Explained that there is a discrepancy between some department leaders opinions on the necessity for students within the BA to have performance as an aspect of the degree. The resolution will propose the inclusion of more performance options for the BA major to enrich student experiences.
    2. The resolution passed
    3. Point of information from Speaker Wright: resolutions in the past regarding major and minor alterations (that of the Neuroscience minor to major and the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics minor) have resulted in tangible changes to those majors/minors in the past.

1. General Orders Calendar
2. Notices and Announcements
   1. Ethics chair: If senators come in late to meetings, they should check with him to sign in for attendance purposes.
3. Adjournment
   1. 8:31