



UNDERGRADUATE SENATE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
103rd Undergraduate Student Senate
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Undergraduate Student Government
14 September 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Gardner 309

- 1) Call to Order
The meeting begins at 7:33PM
- 2) Call of the Roll
- 3) Receipts of Petitions and Messages
 - a. Messages from the Student Body President
 - i. The Chancellor would like to support the GPSG's proposal to expand CAPS and counselors for Asian American students, expanding Campus Safe Walk. The USG also had a meeting with the Chancellor about COVID-19. The USG Executive Branch has finished hiring its staff.
 - b. Messages from the USG Vice President
 - i. He is quickly hiring new people. JGC meeting will occur tomorrow.
 - c. Messages from the USG Treasurer
 - i. She and the Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss the student fees and SFAT is currently auditing everyone. Senator Ritu questioned if there was a vote about students going virtual. Lamar responded that Trustees want to discuss and hear the student's opinions. Senator Fiori questioned about Board of Trustee's staff and Lamar responded that they are auditing all Board members to discuss who would stay.
 - d. Messages from the USG Director of State and External Affairs
 - i. Nina had a meeting with Downtown Chapel Hill regarding safety and increasing blue lights. There is a bill about her position in the Senate but was never included in the discussion before the bill was proposed.
 - e. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Attorney General
 - i. They are still processing cases. 48 cases are being scheduled and 21 cases are ready to be heard. They are also still interviewing potential candidates.
 - f. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor Court Chairperson
 - g. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor System Outreach Coordinator
 - i. Katie says that they have finished recruitment and have lots of new underclassmen.
 - h. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Government Advisor
Bobby has concerns about revised timelines in the bills such as General Elections but there is not a board of elections currently on the staff. The new election to be filled in spring would effectively rule out run-off elections. Senator Fiori questioned why the entirety of board of elections have not met. He responded that there were no applicants and senators did not promote the applications which is why they have not met. Speaker Powell questioned if it was the senator's job to promote the positions instead of the Vice President. Bobby responded he believes it is a collective task including senators. Fiori questioned if the board of election member

applications could be reopened. Bobby responded it is possible but there may be an issue with which staff would be doing the process.

- i. Papers Addressed to the Senate
 - i. The SVP election favorites undergraduate students. Candidates will not need to attend in person training but instead online for the BOE.
- 4) Reports of the Officers of Senate
 - a. Ethics Committee Chair's Report
 - i. There are 4 trainings that must be held and are due by the end of senator's term. The Ethnics will be meeting.
 - b. Oversight & Advocacy Committee Chair's Report
 - i. They are trying to plan a Senate Townhall on September 29th or 30th and making the meeting mandatory. They also want to have senators to track their hours and time sheets. By the next meeting, Sneha will be stepping down from her position due to mental health meeting.
 - c. Rules & Judiciary Committee Chair's Report
 - i. The R & J held a meeting and have approved their bills. They will also be changing majors into different districts that match the districts better with the majors.
 - d. Finance Committee Chair's Report
 - i. They had their first finance night last week.
 - e. Speaker Pro Tempore's Report
 - i. They finished up staff applications and plan to have a staff orientation to learn if there is any additional support needed.
 - f. Speaker's Report
 - i. They will be electing the O&A chair in the next full senate meeting. She also wants to emphasize that the students who would like to be finance chair to consider the heavy time commitment. She held a meeting with the Chancellor, and he said he would be interested in meeting with a small group of student senators. She asked about the mandatory vaccine and contact tracing and he responded that Campus Health is informally contact tracing in classes. There was a \$50 fee for students who wanted to be tested in the weekends and those fees will be waived and students who have paid will be reimbursed.
- 5) Public Comment Period
 - i. Joy expressed frustration about hardship parking. Madix, Deniz, Angus, Louis, Andrew, Andrew Gary, Nathaniel, Matthew, E. Morrey, Benjamin, etc. expressed frustration for the lack of a first-year district in Senate. Valerie expressed frustration for the food scarcity on campus and that the food bank is run by students who may have never been hungry. Nathaniel attended the last senate meeting and was frustrated that the senators did not consider first year student issues without freshman present. Benjamin also wanted transparency including the bills and minutes to be published online.
 - ii. Public Comment Period has been extended. Senator Fiori is currently writing a bill about food scarcity on campus and action to be taken. Senator Robinson did not write the first-year district and will be taking action to establish a first-year district. Senator Desai is unsure about the first-year district because there is no district for sophomores, juniors, and seniors either. Senator Rampani believes that the first-year district bill's structure is what got the bill to not be passed. Senator Ritu talked about the empty seats in the undecided major district that are geared toward first-year students.

Speaker Pro Tempore mentioned that the Black Student Movement and Senate are collaborating to address food scarcity on campus. Senator Rampani would be interested in creating a committee in the Senate to discuss a first-year district.

- iii. The majority has passed a motion to extend Public Comment Period for an extra 10 minutes. A student pointed out that the Dean of Student Office's hardship fund is very difficult to qualify for requires students to exhaust credit cards before being allowed to qualify. The number seats in the Senate were expanded. Senator Wilkins found it much easier to get 25 signatures from peers than from students in their majors and a first-year student agreed. The student also said there should be a centralized means of communicating with senators and senator's updates rather than student senate Instagram pages.
- 6) Consideration of the USG President's Veto of USB-103-024
- i. Lamar had a meeting with vice counsel and asked what the changes of this bill would do for us. He incited a prior incidence at UNC that the voter registration bill fixed. He says that voter registration must be impartial and not make students feel pressured to vote for a specific candidate. Senator Everett echoes that voter registration if done, must be impartial. Senator Richards says that by state law, voter registration drive must be impartial and cannot favor a candidate or it would be in violation. Lamar says that the office has had to be involved but the clause holds the executive branch accountable. The SEA has always had voter drives as of 2013 but the SEA believes that the drives are a small portion of their responsibilities. The vote is 17-0 to uphold the veto.
- 7) Consideration of the USG President's Veto of USB-103-026
- i. Lamar points out that the BOE is daunting in certain times of the year. He believes that the bill will create a lot of confusion among students and that the interpretation of the bill. For example, the training would be 28 days instead of the 21 days from the graduate school's training. The discrepancy of 28 days of training rather than 21 days of training between the undergraduate and graduate. This is one example where students would be confused what to follow the USG or the Joint Code. He thinks there needs to be a stronger communication between both Undergraduate and Graduate Student Government. Senator Richards points out that the BOE already had to control 3 different groups so this would not create more work for the BOE but less in the future. Senator Richards does not want the bill to be looked over just because there is not currently a BOE. Senator Everett says that this bill is an example that there needs to be more transparency. Senator Everett also wants to point out that the senate should not control how much work the BOE does and supports upholding the veto. Senator Fiori supports overriding the veto. Senator Sneha does not and supports amending the bill because the bill says it would go into immediate effect which she does not believe should happen until there is communication with the Graduate School. Senator Robinson believes that the senate uphold the veto and make amendments to the bill. The vote is 13 votes to uphold the veto.
- 8) Election of the Finance Chair
- i. Senator Richards was nominated by Senator Robinson. Senator Fiori asked if Senator Richards would commit to funding nights for the addition of food

banks. He said he would. 12-3 vote for Senator Richards as the Finance Chair.

9) Consent Calendar

- a. USB-103-042 A RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY THE STANDING RULES REGARDING CONSENT CALENDARS
- b. USB-103-043 ↓ (Appropriations Start)
- c. USB-103-076 ↑ (Appropriations End)

10) General Orders Calendar

11) Notices and Announcements

12) Adjournment

- i. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12pm.