



UNDERGRADUATE SENATE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

103rd Undergraduate Student Senate
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Undergraduate Student Government
30 November 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Gardner 309

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.
2. Call of the Roll
3. State of the University
 - a. Chancellor Guskiewicz starts by thanking everyone. He notes the hard work Student Government does, as well as continuing with the 5 year road map. The State of the University is stronger than what it was 18 months ago. Financial crisis, mask mandates, and a change in the typical brick and mortar college experience have occurred but we have made it through. We have endured even though there are many things we could complain about. We have learned that a campus experience matters. The personal interaction between students and teachers has been necessary and rewarding. We have listened and adapted responses to Covid-19. He is grateful for the excellent work of leaders in the departments across this campus, coming together to allow for the low Covid-19 positivity rate seen on campus.
 - b. Response to Covid-19
 - i. Current precautions will be continued for at least the first 3-4 weeks of spring semester. This is the necessary time to look at how the new variant will affect our campus and if changes will be needed.
 - c. Mental health needs of students and staff
 - i. The Chancellor acknowledges that the uncertainty before us has created much of the anxiety faced by the community. He has been at Carolina for 26 years and this semester has been the most challenging he has seen. The mental health challenges are not unique to Carolina or a college campus, but its increased effects are generalized to teens and young adults in recent years. Serve to benefit society: he hopes USG leaders to continue to uphold the idea of “serve to benefit society”. He is transitioning the mental health task force to a permanent committee. In January, JED will be permanently on campus to allow for stronger mental health resources.

More information regarding this will be sent out tomorrow. One additional mental health day for Spring semester on Thursday, April 14. Each month will have one additional day for break. Additional mental health days for the next school year are planned to be added to the University calendar.

- d. His own priorities for next semester
 - i. Gen Ed curriculum is going to be launched in August for more experiential education opportunities. Carolina Cross 100 initiative will help mitigate the impact of Covid-19. Research will be conducted in all 100 counties in NC. There is a \$1.1 Billion in research expenditure. He hopes to bring the global part of UNC-CH being a “Leading Global Public Research University” by focusing more on global education and global partnerships for students. Shares that UNC won an award and there were 3 Row scholars, which set a new record since there has never been 3 in one year. We rank 5th in public schools, 1st in best value university. Wants to make UNC-CH the anchor for North Carolina.
- e. Final Words
 - i. The Chancellor shares the following statement for USG to remember before leaving: “You'll be the power to shape the future.”
- f. Questions from SG
 - i. Hardship funding and credit card option
 - 1. The Chancellor is not aware but will look more into it. Will converse with Scholarship and Student Aid.
 - ii. FAE
 - 1. 54% that is cut back but 40% School of medicine others received 20%. There is currently a phased return to get back all schools to 40% that will occur over 18 months. By Dec 2022 this should be reached.
 - iii. Cut to library funding
 - 1. Due to inflation to the cost of online journals, the library had to choose which journals to let go. He is working to restore the budget reduction. Explains how libraries don't generate revenue like other departments do but is hopeful that it will be in a better place by spring semester to uphold to the value of UNC-CH being a leading research university.
 - iv. How to increase communication between Chancellor, administrators, and students
 - 1. The Chancellor is aware that more dialogue and communication is definitely necessary of which he highly encourages USG to go back to your constituents and bring back ideas. He has people

during this meeting who are taking notes of every idea in order for him to review them.

- v. New covid variant
 - 1. Shares that UNC needs 3 weeks to monitor and in turn adapt our current response plan moving forward with the new variant. We might need to change the testing program, increase the PPE required, or other needs which will hopefully be identified in this 3 week window.
 - vi. How is UNC benefiting from \$2.1 billion in funding
 - 1. He explains that \$850 million has been deferred to maintenance. \$75 million to expand the Undergraduate School part of Kenan-Flagler as well as similar sums distributed to other Schools.
4. Receipts of Petitions and Messages
- a. Messages from the Student Body President
 - i. The Board of Trustees will vote on who will work with the Chancellor in Provost's search. The Chief of Police search will start in January. Out of state tuition was voted and approved to will increase by 3% but reminds USG that this is the third time this has happened, as well as in-state tuition has not been touched. Housing increased by 5% and meal plans by 4% due to food shortage. More information will be provided regarding Washington, D.C. ACC trip to send representation from UNC-CH and advocate. Ways to deal with new Covid-19 variants is in need of more people to generate ideas. Creating the university calendar for the next 3 years needs people so reach out to him if you would like to be part of this. 1 additional seat of board of elections still needs to be filled. President Richard clears that when he voted against eliminating affirmative action it was because race does not determine academic potential and affirmative action has boosted the diversity seen on campus.
 - b. Messages from the USG Vice President
 - i. N/A
 - c. Messages from the USG Treasurer
 - i. N/A
 - d. Messages from the USG Director of State and External Affairs
 - i. Working with Town of Chapel Hill and Carborro to have partnerships with them and are looking for students to collaborate with for their perspectives
 - e. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Attorney General
 - i. 18 cases are in process of being charged and to be released before the end of the semester. 34 cases have been charged and 14 to be finished within this semester.
 - f. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor Court Chair

- i. Last hearing of the semester is tonight. Week of December 13th is a priority hearing to get those cases done before the start of the next semester. All hearings are still virtual but look forward to transitioning them in person. Court voted on 4 new vice chairs.
 - g. Messages from the Undergraduate Honor System Outreach Coordinator
 - i. Final newsletter coming out hopefully before winter break. Pit sits will happen to help people to get through finals and encourage students. Will provide open classrooms for students to sit in and study for next semester.
 - h. Messages from the Undergraduate Student Government Advisor
 - i. December 3 is when processing will be slowed due to the beginning of finals. December 10 processing of paper will be stopped. Encourages USG to come out and build gingerbread homes and use de-stress bags that will be at the Union for LDOC.
 - i. Papers Addressed to the Senate
 - i. None received.
- 5. Reports of the Officers of Senate
 - a. Ethics Committee Chair's Report
 - i. Will send out emails regarding attendance and respond with how you will improve your attendance. Schedule safety training and must be completed by the end of your term and complete google form or email them to Ethic's Chair.
 - b. Oversight & Advocacy Committee Chair's Report
 - i. Stipend review is completed at 100%. Town hall was not very successful since it is hard to find a location so will transition to pit sits for the next event.
 - c. Rules & Judiciary Committee Chair's Report
 - i. Apologies for hosting a meeting the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, but the meeting went well nonetheless.
 - d. Finance Committee Chair's Report
 - i. Finance meeting was 2 weeks ago. Meeting time will be moved to Tuesdays at 6pm instead of Friday's to allow for attendees to enjoy their weekend.
 - e. Speaker's Report
 - i. Wishes everyone a happy end to the semester. There will be no meeting over break. Alayna asks to not email her on holidays and to be conscious about sending emails to each other on weekends. She also asks to please send legislation as google doc. Informs Speaker Pro Tempore has resigned. CUBD has approved cubes to commemorate important figures and will be installed in January.
- 6. Public Comment Period

- a. No comments.
- 7. Election of the Speaker Pro Tempore
 - a. Chair Anna Fiore was elected.
- 8. Election of the Select Committee on the BOE Membership
 - a. Senator Logan Grodsky was nominated through unanimous vote.
 - b. Senator Ewington, Senator Tweden, Senator Shue, Senator Erdal, Senator Gary, and Chair Richards were elected.
- 9. General Orders Calendar
 - a. USB-103-037 A Bill to Compensate the Speaker
 - i. Bill is passed by unanimous consent.
 - b. USB-103-038 A Bill to Compensate the HCC
 - i. Bill is passed by unanimous consent.
 - c. USB-103-039 A Bill to Compensate the USGT
 - i. Bill is passed by unanimous consent.
 - d. USB-103-040 A Bill to Compensate the Secretary
 - i. Bill is passed by unanimous consent.
 - e. USB-103-041 A Bill to Compensate the COS
 - i. Bill is passed by unanimous consent.
- 10. Simple Resolutions
 - a. USR-103-244 A Resolution to Demand Divestment
 - i. Bill is passed unanimously.
- 11. Notices and Announcements
- 10. Adjournment