

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 39

A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*
OF THE 37TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENTS

Short Title: Adjournment *Sine Die* (Public)

Sponsored by: President DOUCETTE (corresponding), Senior Vice President YOPP

First Reading: April 24, 2009

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(Initial Edition)

Referred to: _____ Committee on Government Operations & Community Services _____

1 **WHEREAS,** on August 30th, 2008, the 37th Session of the University of North Carolina
2 Association of Student Governments convened on the campus of the University of
3 North Carolina at Wilmington, with Senior Vice President Ashley Yopp presiding
4 and President T. Greg Doucette in attendance; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS,** among many other highlights throughout the year, the 37th Session of the
7 Association saw unprecedented student interest with active, reliable participation
8 throughout the year from all 17 constituent institutions of the University for the
9 first time in the Association's history; and,
10

11 **WHEREAS,** the 37th Session of the Association also set an all-time record for the highest
12 number of voting members to ever attend an Association meeting, with 54 voting
13 delegates and alternates in attendance at its February meeting at East Carolina
14 University, and the 37th Session also had quorum at every single meeting
15 throughout the year for the first time in the Association's history; and,
16

17 **WHEREAS,** the President and Senior Vice President also expanded their Listening Tour into a
18 full Campus Outreach Initiative, leading to over 78 individual campus visits to all
19 17 institutions throughout the 37th Session; and,
20

21 **WHEREAS,** prior to its first meeting of the Session, in July the members of the Council of
22 Student Body Presidents and appointed Executive Officers met for a four-day
23 planning retreat in Burlington, as well as trustee training at UNC General
24 Administration in Chapel Hill; and,
25

26 **WHEREAS,** this widely-attended retreat produced a consensus recommendation on a budget
27 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan for
28 the first time in recent Association history, a newly-developed mission statement
29 for the organization, and extensive training on Robert's Rules of Order, advocacy,
30 gauging student opinion and other items; and,
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32 **WHEREAS,** in addition, the retreat was attended by State Senator Tony Foriest (D - Alamance,
33 Caswell) who offered his advice to the gathered student leaders on how to
34 advocate on behalf students; and,
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36 **WHEREAS,** the retreat concluded with a banquet titled “A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream: the
37 Student Agenda for 2008-2009” that was widely attended by administrators from
38 several constituent institutions, officials with UNC General Administration, UNC
39 Board of Governors member Charlie Mercer and Chairman Hannah Gage, and
40 State Senator Ellie Kinnaird (D - Orange); and,
41

42 **WHEREAS,** also prior to its inaugural meeting, the 37th Session of the Association sent 14
43 members from across North Carolina to attend the National Student Congress of
44 the United States Student Association, where the state’s delegation exerted an
45 influence well beyond its size in securing the unanimous adoption of a resolution
46 on Department of Education rules governing financial aid, and the adoption by a
47 vote of 77-75 of a resolution calling for federal support of ending the knowledge
48 tax on textbooks; and,
49

50 **WHEREAS,** in August, the General Assembly unanimously adopted its first resolution entitled
51 “The 2008-2009 Minimum Achievement Plan (M.A.P.) Act” formally setting out
52 the objectives of the Association for its 37th Session; and,
53

54 **WHEREAS,** at the same meeting the 37th Session of the Association also unanimously adopted
55 a commendation of Dr. Terry Wall, who had served as the Association’s office
56 manager for five years, as well as the unanimous confirmation of its initial
57 Executive Officers, and the unanimous adoption of the 2008-2009 budget, and the
58 unanimous ratification of a new Constitution that corrected many of the
59 Association’s past structural challenges; and,
60

61 **WHEREAS,** the General Assembly also elected a Speaker *Pro Tempore*, Secretary and
62 Parliamentarian without controversy, heard presentations from both Miss Carmen
63 Berkeley, President of the United States Student Association, and Dr. Ron
64 Campbell, J.D., regarding National Dracula Day, and had its Council of Student
65 Body Presidents meeting visited by UNC Board of Governors member Charlie
66 Mercer; and,
67

68 **WHEREAS,** in September the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of the
69 University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where it heard from Miss Corrie
70 Wilson of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student
71 Government Association on a planned partnership with the Association; and,
72

73 **WHEREAS,** at the same meeting, the Committee on Government Operations & Community
74 Services reviewed proposals for the new Campus Innovation Grants program, for
75 the first time in the Association’s history providing funding directly to campus
76 Student Governments for Get Out The Vote programs on each campus; and,

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77 **WHEREAS,** also at the same meeting, the Committee on Academic & Student Affairs
78 reviewed concerns regarding academic advising, textbook issues and voter
79 registration plans, while the Committee on Legislative & Public Affairs continued
80 plans for the recreation of the Association's Advocacy Corps, reviewed strategy
81 for the Association's legislative agenda, and made initial plans for Students' Day
82 at the Capital 2009; and,
83

84 **WHEREAS,** in October the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of
85 Appalachian State University in Boone, where it was welcomed by ASU
86 Chancellor Ken Peacock and Mrs. Peacock, and was visited by several members
87 of the ASU administration as well as UNC Board of Governors member Clarice
88 Cato Goodyear; and,
89

90 **WHEREAS,** at the same meeting, the 37th Session of the Association set a four-year record for
91 attendance, received a letter from UNC Board of Governors member J. Craig
92 Souza encouraging the Association to take action on tuition and fee issues,
93 confirmed the appointment of a Vice President of Legislative & Public Affairs,
94 unanimously approved a resolution supporting the creation of a football team at
95 UNC Charlotte, and unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Board of
96 Governors to preemptively lower the maximum-allowed tuition increases in
97 anticipation of a downturn in the economy; and,
98

99 **WHEREAS,** the respective committees of the Association also continued their expansive work
100 on a number of issues, setting a date for Students' Day at the Capital 2009,
101 confirming appointments to the Association's Advocacy Corps, beginning to
102 revitalize the Service North Carolina community service program, and starting an
103 analysis of textbook cost containment strategies at the request of UNC President
104 Erskine Bowles; and,
105

106 **WHEREAS,** in November the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of
107 North Carolina Central University in Durham, where it began detailed discussions
108 on the admission of undocumented immigrants to the community college system
109 and a comprehensive review of new ethics regulations for Association officials;
110 and,
111

112 **WHEREAS,** at the same meeting, the committees of the Association finalized a date for
113 training the members of the Association's Advocacy Corps, reviewed plans for its
114 inaugural NCinDC Advocacy Event, began planning for its biennial Conference
115 on Student Government Elections, and reviewed a new "Potential Policy Items for
116 Review" document that served as a repository for student concerns that needed to
117 be addressed by the Association; and,
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119 **WHEREAS,** in December the newly-constituted Board of Directors of the 37th Session of the
120 Association convened in Raleigh for the purposes of electing its officers and
121 interviewing candidates for the position of the Association's Office Manager,

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electing Ashley Yopp as Chairman of the Board, Jason Smith as Vice Chairman of the Board, and Dakota Williams as Corporate Secretary, and unanimously selecting Miss Judy Munson to serve as the Association's Office Manager; and,

WHEREAS, also in December, the Council of Student Body Presidents and Executive Officers of the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where it engaged in a comprehensive and objective review of all appointed and elected Executive Officers, including the Senior Vice President and President, for the first time in the Association's history; and,

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the Student Body Presidents and Executive Officers offered thorough input responding to a sustainability policy proposed by UNC General Administration, suggested several administrative changes to how the Association operates to improve its efficiency, and reviewed a number of ideas and discussion topics to help make the Association more responsive to students in the difficult economic environment; and,

WHEREAS, during this same weekend in Raleigh, the members of the Association's Advocacy Corps received formal training on how to effectively engage lawmakers on behalf of students and were extensively prepared for both the Students' Day at the Capital and the NCinDC Advocacy Event; and,

WHEREAS, in January the 37th Session of the Association led a largely privately-funded NCinDC Advocacy Event to the nation's capital of Washington, DC, where interested participants met with several United States Congressmen on issues facing students in North Carolina, had a two-hour meeting with United States Senator Richard Burr (R - NC) as well as Senator-elect Kay Hagan (D - NC) on pressing student policy issues, met with John Cardarelli of C-SPAN regarding pursuing a professional career in Washington, and learned a great deal of information about the nation's capital and the federal legislative process; and,

WHEREAS, also in January, the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of Fayetteville State University, where it was greeted by both FSU Chief of Staff Thomas Conway and State Senator Tony Rand (D - Bladen, Cumberland), who willingly gave over two hours of his time to talk with students regarding the state's budget and answering questions of members of the Association; and,

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the 37th Session of the Association unanimously adopted a resolution encouraging the North Carolina Community College System to reopen its doors to undocumented students, unanimously adopted comprehensive ethics reforms designed to address past challenges faced by the Association, unanimously adopted a resolution rechartering the Association's Service North Carolina community service program, adopted a resolution calling upon students to avoid using websites that engaging in anonymous attacks on other students, and

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unanimously adopted a full legislative agenda for the 2008-2009 academic year;
and,

WHEREAS, also at this meeting, the Association unanimously adopted two separate resolutions on tuition and fees, calling upon the UNC Board of Governors to protect access and campus flexibility in weighing its decisions on tuition and fees, and calling upon UNC General Administration to improve how University's conduct their tuition and fee reviews to provide for a more student-oriented decision-making process; and,

WHEREAS, at the end of January, the 37th Session of the Association held its 2nd Biennial Conference on Student Government Elections, providing a forum for discussion and dissemination of ideas, problems and strategies for improving the campus election processes for the constituent institutions of the University; and,

WHEREAS, in February the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of East Carolina University in Greenville, where it was greeted by Association President *Emeritus* M. Cole Jones who conveyed to attendees the importance of student leadership; and,

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the 37th Session of the Association set its all-time record for attendance, unanimously adopted a resolution supporting a free expression wall at the campus of UNC Asheville, unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing legislative action to grant a Board of Trustee position to the Student Body President at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon UNC General Administration to support suggestions for improving the affordability of textbooks, and unanimously selected Mr. Andy Willis with the Office of Governor Beverly Perdue to be the recipient of the Association's annual John L. Sanders Student Advocate Award; and,

WHEREAS, the respective committees of the Association continued their previous work on a number of matters affecting students, including a review of tuition and fees, a discussion on how campus judicial processes are administered at the respective institutions, and mobilization plans for both the Students' Day at the Capital and Service North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17th, 2009, the 37th Session of the Association held its annual Students' Day at the Capital event, directly coinciding with the day Governor Beverly Perdue released her proposed budget, where over 30 students from across North Carolina congregated at the NC General Assembly and met with over two dozen lawmakers on the Association's legislative agenda and the proposed budget; and,

WHEREAS, also in March, the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where its committees began

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discussion of transition plans, the status of Student Health Centers on the respective campuses, a wide-ranging discussion on environmental sustainability, and discussions on campus safety; and,

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the 37th Session of the Association unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of comprehensive articulation agreements between the NC School of Science and Mathematics and the sixteen constituent universities, unanimously adopted a resolution urging the North Carolina General Assembly to provide furlough authority to the University President to help address the acute fiscal crisis facing the state, nominated and voted for the recipients of the Delegate of the Year, Delegation of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Eve Marie Carson Servant Leader Awards, and nominated candidates for President and Senior Vice President for the 38th Session; and,

WHEREAS, just prior to its meeting on the UNCCH campus, over 30 members of the Association met with administrators at UNC General Administration to discuss key issues facing students including the UNC in Washington program's cancellation, the impact of the budget on the UNC Tomorrow program, ideas for containing textbook costs, issues with environmental sustainability, and the process for considering tuition and fee increases in the upcoming fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, in April the 37th Session of the Association convened on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, where its committees undertook initial transition efforts to ensure the 38th Session of the Association continues upon the successes built in the 37th Session; and,

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the Association unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the North Carolina General Assembly to find additional state funding to improve equity in per-student funding among the University institutions, unanimously adopted a resolution asking UNC General Administration to articulate a minimum level of acceptable security on each campus, and, for the first time in three years, unanimously adopted in a timely fashion a budget of recurring revenues for the successive fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the 37th Session of the Association honored Mr. Alikhan H. Salehi of the University of North Carolina at Asheville as the recipient of its 2nd Eve Marie Carson Servant Leader Award for extraordinary commitment to service on his campus; and,

WHEREAS, the 37th Session of the Association honored Mr. Mathew J. Burke of East Carolina University as its Payne-Ducote Delegate of the Year, Appalachian State University as its Delegation of the Year, and Mr. Atul C. Bhula of East Carolina University as its Officer of the Year, for exemplary service to the Association that was vital to its continued success throughout the session; and,

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256 **WHEREAS,** the 37th Session of the Association also honored Appalachian State University as
257 the winner of its renewed Service North Carolina community service competition,
258 for the highest number of service hours per capita among the constituent
259 institutions; and,
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261 **WHEREAS,** the 37th Session of the Association unanimously reelected T. Greg Doucette of
262 North Carolina State University to serve as the President of its 38th Session, and
263 unanimously elected Atul Bhula of East Carolina University to serve as the Senior
264 Vice President of its 38th Session, in the first election in the Association's history
265 attended by voting members from all 17 constituent institutions of the University
266 of North Carolina; and,
267

268 **WHEREAS,** in addition to the numerous outreach initiatives, policy statements and meeting-
269 related items, the 37th Session of the Association also began work on
270 comprehensively revising its internet properties, redesigning the uncasg.org
271 website, recreating the servicenc.com website, and creating an entirely new
272 website for student feedback at iwantmydollarback.org; and,
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274 **WHEREAS,** the 37th Session of the Association also provided an unprecedented level of
275 transparency in its internal operations, posting all agendas, documents and emails,
276 creating new email listservs with publicly-accessible archives, and providing a
277 detailed budget itemization of every single expenditure by the Association
278 distributed to members of the public monthly; and,
279

280 **WHEREAS,** to any objective observer, the 37th Session of the Association has enjoyed a level
281 of interest unprecedented in the Association's recent history and served capably as
282 the recognized voice of students across the University of North Carolina,
283 providing a level of value to each student that truly "gives students their dollar
284 back"; now, therefore, be it
285

286 **RESOLVED,** that the 37th Session of the University of North Carolina Association of Student
287 Governments shall stand adjourned *sine die*, effective at 11:59pm on Thursday,
288 April 30th, 2009; and be it further
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290 **RESOLVED,** that any portions of the journal yet unapproved shall stand approved, including
291 minutes of the April 2009 meeting, effective at noon on June 1st, 2009, provided
292 that the Secretary shall provide for online review by all delegates prior to that
293 date; and be it further
294

295 **RESOLVED,** in the event of vetoes or other crises, the Senior Vice President shall be
296 empowered to suspend *sine die* adjournment for a period up to one month for
297 purposes of reconvening the General Assembly; and be it further
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299 **RESOLVED,** in all cases where this act and the Association Statutes may conflict, this act shall
300 govern.