



The University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments

127 W Hargett Street, Suite 300 • Raleigh, NC 27601-1351
tel: 919.715.2431 • fax: 919.715.2434

Constituent Institutions
Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School
North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

MEMORANDUM

TO: Erskine Bowles, President
University of North Carolina
Hannah Gage, Chairman
UNC Board of Governors

CC: Members of the UNC Board of Governors
Appropriate members of UNC General Administration
Executive Officers of the UNC Association of Student Governments

FROM: T. Greg Doucette, President

DATE: September 1st, 2008

RE: Status update following August business meeting of UNCASG

The UNC Association of Student Governments held its first full business meeting this past weekend, from 8:00pm on Friday, August 29th until approximately 11:00am on Sunday, August 31st on the campus of UNC Wilmington.

This meeting represented the first major test of the Association, to determine if the actions of the whole group would parallel the planning, execution and public commentary by the Executive Officers and Council of Student Body Presidents during the summer months.

I am pleased to report the meeting was a complete and total success across the board.

Initial Highlights

For the first business meeting of the year -- in the past heavily dominated by basic explanations of organizational structure, personal introductions, elections of minor officers, and so on -- the agenda was focused on substantive business and the delegates reciprocated accordingly.

Of particular interest, we had more people in attendance than at any point of any meeting during the entire previous year: 50 delegates, all 11 Executive Officers, and 8 guests. We also had 15 of our 17 institutions represented; only the UNC School of the Arts (who have not responded to any ASG items) and Western Carolina University (who could not locate delegates willing to make the trip) went without representation at the meeting.

This strong number of attendees enabled us to maintain quorum for the entire duration of the weekend despite the substantial lengthening of business sessions; previous Saturday business sessions began at 10:00am and adjourned by 2:00pm, while this year the adjournment has been pushed back until 6:00pm to cover additional business and the optional Sunday planning breakfast is an entirely new addition.

And as a totally unanticipated surprise, Charlie Mercer of the Board of Governors happened to be in the UNCW Student Union while our various committees were meeting -- and he happened to stop in on the Council of Student Body Presidents mere moments after the group discussed ensuring everyone's delegates were well-behaved since they never knew who might be watching.

To my knowledge that marks the first time a member of the Board has been present at a meeting of the Council of Student Body Presidents in at least the past 3 years, and all of us are very appreciative of the visit.

Unanimous Adoption of Major Objectives

The Association had 3 primary objectives for the weekend: 1) adopt the FY09 budget recommended by the Council of Student Body Presidents, since a budget was not adopted in the previous session; 2) confirm all of the Executive Officers appointed by Senior Vice President Ashley Yopp and I over the summer; and 3) review and adopt the completely revised Association Constitution.

All three items were adopted unanimously with no opposition of any kind.

The constitutional changes were a truly major reform, setting the stage for an even more comprehensive overhaul of the group's bylaws at our September meeting. The new Association Constitution, among other changes, i) now requires that the Association abide by the Open Meetings and Public Records laws of North Carolina, ii) changes the term of office to end on April 30th, cutting my own term short by 2 months but permanently eliminating the "lame duck" period of the outgoing President, and iii) establishes a new Board of Directors separate from the Council of Student Body Presidents, imposing a separation between the operational and oversight responsibilities of the organization.

Other Items

In addition to the major objectives, the Association also formally adopted the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan devised over the summer, as well as a resolution honoring Dr. Terry Wall for her years of service to the Association as our first Office Manager.

The four committees of the Association also met and collaborated with their corresponding Vice Presidents in the Executive Branch to review current projects and further develop new ones.

We were also fortunate to have a number of special topics addressed by guest speakers, including:

- Dr. Brian Chapman, UNCW Provost
- Miss Carmen Berkley, President of the United States Student Association
- Mr. Chazz Clevinger of UNCCH, President *Emeritus* of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association
- Dr. Ron Campbell, Director of "National Dracula Day" (nationwide blood donation campaign)
- Mr. Seth Palmer, Research Assistant with the North Carolina General Assembly

Bumps in the Road

The meeting was not without some minor disturbances. Heavy traffic and bad weather along the I-40 corridor delayed a number of delegates for the opening Friday night session. In addition, the prior administration had no minutes produced of the April meeting of the Association so no formal record exists of that meeting.

On the personnel side, the Associate Vice President of Government Operations resigned from his position on Thursday due to personal circumstances. I also withdrew the nomination of the Vice President of Government Operations after her absence from the meeting (all Vice Presidents and Associate Vice Presidents are currently under a strict “two strike” policy regarding performance and attendance).

Replacements for both positions were made and confirmed on Saturday.

What’s Next?

With the constitutional reforms out of the way, the new Association Statutes will be reviewed by Kathryn Bender of UNC Legal as they are finished and then placed on the September meeting agenda. The statutes will incorporate the detailed ethics reforms and financial controls that the Association has been lacking since its inception.

The Association has also been given the ability to execute a pilot grant-funding program for constituent Student Governments to request funds for Get Out The Vote programs as part of a competitive bidding process. All requests received for those funds will be reviewed by the Committee on Government Operations & Community Services which will then issue a recommendation for distribution.

The Committee on Legislative & Public Affairs will be working with constituent Student Governments on their GOTV bid requests, as well as continuing its efforts to re-implement the Association’s Advocacy Corps and better tie in student lobbying efforts with the official legislative agendas of the 17 institutions.

Several in-progress academic initiatives should have tangible progress for review by the Committee on Academic & Student Affairs. These include the UNC Today initiative, a statewide student survey designed to provide feedback on where the Association and the Board of Governors should focus their resources over the next 2-4 years.

Other items of interest and action will also undoubtedly crop up along the way.

Questions?

Please feel free to get in touch with my mobile phone or email if you have any questions about this memorandum or any other Association-related business. My mobile number is 919.606.7158 and email is president@uncasg.org.