MINUTES
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Board of Trustees
Student Affairs Committee
April 5, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Exandra Dempsey, Carolyn Ferree, Richard Moore

GUESTS PRESENT: Kemp Allen, Kate Barrett, Alan Boyette, Lucien Capone, Hudnall Christopher, Carolyn Coppedge, Karen Core, Earlene Cox, Jean Davis, Carol Disque, Ann Fitzmaurice-Reese, Steve Gilliam, Stephen Hassenfelt, Michelle Hines, Bruce Michaels, Sharlene O’Neil, William Pratt, Jane Preyer, Ryan Radford, Gary Rosenkrantz, Thomas Ross, Yvonne Ross, Angela Scott, Jen Day Shaw, Patricia Stewart, Patricia Sullivan, Reade Taylor, Edward Uprichard, Jonae Wartel

Approval of Minutes of the February 2, 2006 Meeting

Mr. Moore asked for any corrections to the minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting. No corrections were offered and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Residence Hall Update

Vice Chancellor Disque reminded the Committee that construction began on the residence hall last July – less than a year ago – and we are on track for move-in in August. Construction is complete on the parking deck with finish work currently taking place on that part of the project. The roofing is 90 percent complete and the brick work is about 60 percent complete. A great deal of work has been completed inside the building that can’t be seen from the outside - paint, carpet and the installation of cabinets has begun. The contractor will now begin turning over about ten apartments a week to the developer to start that process. Furniture delivery is scheduled to begin June 15 and housing assignments are underway for the many applications Housing and Residence Life has received from students wanting to live in that new building. The Housing and Residence Life staff has set up a priority system for upper class students returning to the residence halls who want to live there. Our goal is to be at full capacity without having to use so many lounges and temporary spaces, but at this point it is hard to determine if that can be accomplished this fall. Additional residential students as well as our overall increased enrollment will impact dining services, but they are prepared to handle the larger numbers. The new hall will have retail space for a “C” store to sell convenience items much like the one in Elliott Center and the expectation is that those residents will prepare more of their own food since the new apartments are equipped with full kitchens.
Results of Chancellor’s ad hoc committee to review policies on “outdoor assemblies by affiliated groups” and “posting announcements”

In late fall semester 2005, the University Legal Counsel noted that the existing policy on outdoor assemblies had weaknesses based on the way law had changed over a period of time. Chancellor Sullivan asked for the formation of a committee to look at that policy from an institutional perspective to determine if we treat our own community members the same way we treat outsiders with no UNCG affiliation. Historically we did treat them the same way - if they did not reserve space in advance, then they made use of two free speech areas. Shortly after the Chancellor called for the creation of that committee, some students questioned the policy and organized a campus protest followed by some opinion pieces in the press. The committee of 13 included student representatives, administrators and special representation from the police since they have substantial responsibility for coordinating or enforcing the policy. The outcome of their work resulted in substantial change to the old policy and a substantial distinction between members of our own community and outside groups. The new policy, which is approved and on the UNCG website, permits (almost) spontaneous assemblies and outdoor assemblies many places on campus with the following guidelines: (1) must be 30 feet away from the building, (2) no amplified sound because of possible disruption of classes, (3) no assembly in the residence hall area between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. and (4) the police must be informed 12 hours in advance so they can meet traffic and management needs. These guidelines apply to members of our own community and outside groups who are invited by a university department, student organization or group. Further details can be found on the website. For true outside groups, which are those with no affiliation with the university or not invited by the university to come to campus, the committee decided to require that those groups use only truly public forums such as alongside a number of city streets that run through or border the UNCG campus. An outside individual or outside group that does not have an invitation or sponsorship by a student organization or campus group would have 13 public areas around the campus for assembly without notice required as long as they meet city ordinances. Those 13 areas are listed in the policy and posted on the website.

Report on Student Government Association 2005-06

Accomplishments

- Library hours extended until 2:00 a.m. during exam periods and coffee was provided for students.
- Negotiated with ARAMARK for better catering pricing for organizations that have more limited budgets.
- Legislation statute system was created and the system of legislation reformatted.
- Worked with Faculty Senate to add an A+ to the University grading scale.
- Completed a campus-wide hunger and homelessness awareness week to bring attention to the problem in Greensboro and other cities.
- Increased SGA participation on several University committees such as the free speech zone policy committee.
- Contributed over $2,000 to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Relief Fund; helped fund a trip to Biloxi, Mississippi over winter break and a trip over Spring Break to New Orleans for hurricane Katrina relief projects.
- Worked on updating and revising by-laws and constitution; switched to a bicameral legislation system beginning in January; elections were completed and Jonae Wartel was elected the new SGA President for 2006-07.
- Collected student surveys on various issues and student concerns.
- Started the “Coffee with the Chancellor” program monthly for students to meet with the Chancellor to address concerns.

Concerns
- While UNCG seems to do a fair amount of recognizing our students, there is concern among the students that the same credit is not given to the outstanding professors and teachers at UNCG. Students feel more needs to be done to make this known to prospective and current students.
- The perceived lack of social life at UNCG - dubbed by students as a “suitcase campus” - is a concern to many students, who either pack up and go home or to other campuses on the weekends. Students feel that a lack of communication between students and the University administration contributes to students feeling disconnected and uninvolved in campus life.
- Creating a centrally located public structure for students and student organizations to advertise could resolve some of the problems related to communication.
- Students have expressed discontent with parking. Creating more parking decks such as the one below the new residence hall is definitely a temporary solution. It has also been suggested that freshmen residential students should not be allotted parking permits. This would not only alleviate a lot of the parking congestion, but would also encourage freshmen students to spend more time on campus (especially on the weekends), to use public transportation and to form relationships with other non-freshmen students who might have the privilege of having a vehicle on campus. The Higher Education Area Transit System – HEAT - buses which are provided by the Greensboro Transit Authority are also something to look forward to in the fall. Hopefully this will not only clean up Greensboro’s air quality, but also lessen the number of cars on campus.
- The rising cost of higher education is a continuing concern. Many trustees will recall comments made by former SGA President Villanueva at the November meeting about the reasons students can no longer afford tuition and fee hikes. She addressed such issues as the rising cost of textbooks, the availability of financial aid and other charges incurred by students for their access to education, not only at UNCG but statewide and nationwide as well. Although students support the quality academic programs and activities the University provides, the financial burden on the current student population is a growing concern. Ms. Dempsey urged trustees to investigate and implement other ways to provide a quality educational experience without creating an even greater financial burden on current or future student bodies.
Ms. Dempsey concluded by thanking the trustees for their time and consideration. She emphasized that the concerns that were brought forward were not a fair representation of the student body’s complete thoughts on the University. Although she could have spent more time sharing positive reflections from the students, she felt it more pressing to convey the difficulties currently facing our student body. It was her hope that trustees would keep the suggestions in mind for years to come.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.