

MINUTES

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee

August 31, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ferree, Karen McNeil-Miller, Richard Moore, Jane Preyer, Jonae Wartel

GUESTS PRESENT: John Allen, Anna Marshall-Baker, Kate Barrett, Cheryl Callahan, Lucien Capone, Hudnall Christopher, Carolyn Coppedge, Rosemary Crawford, Jean Davis, Carol Disque, Steve Gilliam, Stephen Hassenfelt, Sharlene O'Neil, Wendy Pagoaga, Ryan Radford, Thomas Ross, Yvonne Ross, Kathryn Russo, Jen Day Shaw, Kim Sousa-Peoples, Patricia Stewart, Patricia Sullivan, Reade Taylor, Zack Underwood, Edward Uprichard, David Vaughan, Beth Waterson, Carrie Whiteside, Lanita Withers

Approval of Minutes of the April 5, 2006 Meeting

Ms. McNeil-Miller opened the meeting by thanking Mr. Moore for presiding over the last meeting in her absence and then asked for any corrections to the minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting. No corrections were offered and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.

INFORMATION ITEM:

Freshman Orientation Program

Vice Chancellor Disque shared her experiences as a freshman during orientation and talked about the way the program has changed over the years. Technological advances in recent years have significantly changed processes such as registration making them more efficient during orientation. Orienting new students and their families is a university-wide effort involving faculty advisors, enrollment services staff, student affairs staff and staff from dining services, parking services, residence halls, etc. The hub of that activity is our Orientation and Family Programs staff, but the heart of it all is the Spartan Orientation Staff - students who serve as guides and facilitators to new incoming students. Dr. Disque introduced Dr. Kim Sousa-Peoples, Director of our award-winning orientation program and her staff. Dr. Sousa-Peoples acknowledged the 24 Spartan Orientation Staff leaders who were unable to attend the meeting due to class schedules and then opened the floor to John Allen and Katie Russo, veterans of the SOS program. Katie Russo, a senior history education major from Charlotte, is entering her fourth year with the SOAR (Spartan Orientation Advising and Registration) program. Katie shared the mission of the Office of Orientation and Family Programs which is to serve as a bridge for the UNCG college experience for new students and their families by giving

them the tools and support necessary to make a successful transition into the UNCG community. The mission and goals are accomplished in many ways such as SOAR, Welcome Week, the Chancellor's New Student Convocation, Family Weekend, the freshman summer reading project, advising Alpha Lambda Delta (national freshman honor society), University Marshals and the SOS staff. The flagship program – SOAR – helps to introduce new undergraduate freshmen, transfer and adult students and their families to our campus and to the UNCG community including available resources provided by offices across campus. Advising and registration allows students to register for courses for the upcoming semester and provides parents with unique sessions designed to help them with the sensitive transition of sending a child off to college. There are eight freshman orientation sessions in June, one in August and one in January. Additional sessions are offered to transfer and adult students in June, August and January and are especially designed to meet the needs of nontraditional students and their families. This summer UNCG hosted 2,474 freshman students, 946 transfer students and 2,238 family members. The SOS staff has a continuing impact on new students at UNCG.

The SOS staff is a diverse group of 24 undergraduate students representing a large variety of majors, hometowns, cultures and interests who interact most directly with new students and parents. They represent the best and the brightest at UNCG as evidenced by the 2.75 GPA that is required to remain on staff. They are involved in a wide variety of student, Greek and academic and honors organizations and have received numerous awards and recognitions on campus as well as on a region-wide basis. The SOS staff participates in Welcome Week, Family Weekend activities and the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) which provides professional development and networking opportunities with other orientation leaders throughout the southern region. During this year's conference, Dr. Kim Sousa-Peoples was recognized as the 2006 Outstanding Orientation Director of the southern region. Two other SOS leaders won the case study competition at that conference as well.

John Allen, a marketing major from Thomasville is entering his third year on the Orientation staff and is coordinator of family programs. He explained that the office has recently changed its name to reflect its ongoing work with families as well as new students. Families are a great concern to the office and that concern is demonstrated by the programming specifically designed for families during SOAR and Family Weekend, a semi-annual *Family Matters Newsletter*, a monthly e-newsletter (*Family Connections*) and Family Link (an emergency email notification system). They also encourage participation in the Parent Family Association and the Parent Family Advisory Council. In addition to offering many programs and services, their office collaborates with others across campus to create cohesive and effective programs including the Advising Council, Undergraduate Studies Council, Orientation Planning Council and regular meetings with Enrollment Management staff on issues related to serving admitted students and registration. They are also in touch with faculty through the summer reading project, faculty expectations programs and guest speakers for Convocation and Family Weekend.

Wendy Pagoaga is a junior sociology major with a political science minor hoping to pursue a law career. She is currently working with juveniles concentrating on family law

and is considering specializing in immigration law. Wendy expressed what the program meant to her as a freshman and why she wanted to share that experience on a personal level as an SOS staff member. The comments she heard from students and parents about how they felt very welcomed made her participation very rewarding. John's experience working with families has been the most gratifying during his three years on the Orientation staff. The classroom knowledge he has received along with the opportunity to plan and market the family programs has provided him with significant hands-on experience that translates directly to his major. Katie has been able to translate the impact she has had on the last three freshman classes directly to her career goal as a high school teacher. The opportunity for her to communicate her love and passion for UNCG to other students is immeasurable. Networking is another benefit of being on the SOS staff and has provided Katie with many opportunities for learning about available scholarships and for resume building.

The staff then presented the Board members with gift bags filled with mementos similar to the items given to students during SOAR and invited them to watch a video of the SOAR experience.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.