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

April 10, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bryant, Carolyn Ferree, Richard Moore, Jane Preyer

GUESTS PRESENT: Joey Barker, Woodrow Burkhead, Mike Byers, Lucien Capone, Linda Carlisle, Michael Carter, Terri Cartner, Carolyn Coppedge, Keith Cosentino, Jean Davis, Carol Disque, Curt Erwin, Brian Ewing, Stephen Hassenfelt, Jill Hillyer, Mary Hummel, Brad Johnson, Ed Keller, Bruce Michaels, Sharlene O’Neil, David Perrin, William Pratt, Cindy Reed, Steve Rhew, Patricia Sullivan, Reade Taylor

INFORMATION ITEM:

Campus Housing Status Report

Vice Chancellor Disque prefaced the presentation by asking the Board to think about the future and priorities of UNCG relative to on-campus housing as the institution works through the strategic planning process. Trustees have been briefed on Housing and Residence Life about every four years and were consulted in 2000 as a result of the growth we were experiencing following an unstable period in the 1990’s. At that time, trustees advised that campus housing should increase at the same rate as overall enrollment.

When trustees were again addressed in 2004, it was evident that enrollment growth was faster than predicted. A housing demand analysis completed by Dr. Ira Fink and Associates that year generated much discussion and trustees issued a directive to move toward increasing capacity as soon as possible. The result of that directive was the Spring Garden Apartments that opened in 2006 adding space for 400 additional students.

Dr. Disque introduced Dr. Mary Hummel, Director of Housing and Residence Life, Joey Barker who provided technical assistance for the presentation and several other members of the Housing and Residence Life staff who were present to answer questions. She summarized what she hoped to accomplish as a result of the information presented and asked Dr. Hummel to address some of the reasons why campus housing is important to our students as well as to the University. Stewardship of the University’s investment is just one example of that importance and statistics were provided to substantiate that investment. A facilities profile was also provided.

Several working assumptions with respect to managing the housing program were outlined and a number of critical issues were discussed – student demand and institutional capacity; institutional program and student expectations; student life-safety
and institutional facilities condition; sustainability and financing. Based on projections done by Institutional Research, substantial new housing will be required to continue housing approximately 25% of our campus-based student population.

Statistics comparing UNCG to other UNC system institutions, those in our national peer group and the local rental housing market help us understand how to build powerful learning environments and desirable amenities in housing.

The quad was cited as an example of the interplay of all the factors and issues previously identified. There are concerns about students’ willingness to live there and possible catastrophic failure of building systems that might force the closure of one or more buildings. Lack of air conditioning, accessibility problems, and community bathrooms are just a few of the challenges. Issues and alternatives addressed in one set of buildings, however, might and often do impact other facilities.

In conclusion, all the factors presented are in constant tension with each other – interconnected and we are feeling that we’re about to “hit a wall” in trying to sort out some of these factors. Campus housing needs to serve the interest of intentional learning and is not just an auxiliary business or service to students. It is a powerful place for learning.

Dr. Disque then solicited the help of any Student Affairs Committee member or others interested in being part of a small group to meet during the summer to consult on how best to position campus housing to serve UNCG now and in the future. Linda Carlisle and Stephen Hassenfelt volunteered to participate.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Note: Please refer to the slide presentation linked to this document for statistics and details of information presented.