

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Thursday, September 11, 2014
Minutes

The Committee on Public Affairs met Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 3:45pm in the Grand Room of the A.K. Hinds University Center on the campus of Western Carolina University.

Committee members present include Chairman Holmes, Vice Chairman Parrish, Secretary Hinton, Senator Apodaca, Chairman Fennebresque, Ms. Goodnight, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Harrelson, Mr. McMahan, Mr. Nath, Mr. Parker, Mr. Powers, Mr. Smith, Mr. Trask, and Mr. David Curtis. Vice President Moretz, Vice President Rhinehardt, and State Director Kappler attended as staff.

Kimrey Rhinehardt, Vice President for Federal Relations provided an overview and explanation of the Higher Education Act. Fully reading and understanding the Higher Education Act is integral because it affects most current legislation on educational bills and rights. She opened with a video explaining the act, its origin, and changes from its start in 1965 by President Johnson. North Carolina is well positioned in the next Congress to have input on amendments to the act.

Andrew Moretz, Vice President for Government Relations, provided an overview on the budget conference report and discussed the research extension of the executive act for Champ Mitchell. He stated that the Board of Governors is making community outreach and campus visits a priority. Also, Doyle Parrish made a comment about allowing suggestions from Chancellors and others in the community for campus meetings with joint legislative oversight.

Lastly, there was an elected official's panel at the end of the meeting facilitated by Chairman Holmes. Panelists were Senator Tom Apodaca and J. Brett Keeter, Congressman Patrick McHenry's regional director. Mr. Keeter discussed McHenry's leadership position and his support for the UNC system and his local community. These issues will bring jobs back to rural cities in North Carolina. Senator Apodaca spoke about the importance of Western Carolina University to how he got where he is today. He stated that a better focus on the educational budget, communication, and relationship with legislators will improve UNC's outcome and have an impact on North Carolina's future economic growth.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Jim B. Holmes, Chair
Committee on Public Affairs

Henry Hinton, Secretary
Committee on Public Affairs