

## **Committee on Public Affairs**

**Thursday, April 9, 2015**

### **Minutes (Draft)**

The Committee on Public Affairs met Thursday, April 9, in the Mendenhall Student Center of East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Committee members present included Chairman Holmes, Vice Chairman Parrish, Secretary Hinton, Mr. Rippey, Mr. Trask, Mr. Harrelson, Mr. McMahan, Mrs. Goodnight, Mr. Powers, Mr. Nath, Ms. Wiley, Dr. Roper, Chancellor Roberts, and Interim Chancellor Sederberg. Other Board members in attendance included Ms. Nelson, Ms. Gage, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. MacNeill, and Mr. Parker. Vice President Moretz, Vice President Rhinehardt attended as staff.

State Senator Don Davis was also in attendance.

The March minutes were approved.

Chairman Holmes gave a brief welcoming statement to board members and introduced Senator Davis.

Kimrey presented the federal update. Recently, updates were just completed to revise and pass the federal agenda. President Tom Ross will take UNC recommendations to Washington, DC and meet with Senator Thom Tillis, Congresswoman Alma Adams and Congressman Mark Meadows. While in DC, President Ross will also speak to the Tar Heel Circle, a group of influential North Carolinians residing in Washington.

Chairman Holmes introduced Senator Davis as a speaker at the meeting to give his thoughts on current policies and to be a voice of the eastern North Carolina community. He received both his graduate and doctorate degrees from ECU and praised the positive impacts created by ECU and the UNC system in eastern North Carolina. Senator Davis also provided his thoughts about Elizabeth City State University, namely that a more collaborative working group could be particularly helpful in moving past ECSU's current difficulties.

Holmes moved into state relations update by Vice President Drew Moretz. Drew announced key dates for upcoming bills. They are as follows: April 6, a house bill will be in the process of approval; April 16th, crossover deadline; April 30<sup>th</sup>, the house will be working on the finalized K-12 budget; April 15<sup>th</sup>, will see the revenue collections and the house is going first this year. Currently, the house and senate are still deciding on bills including the topics of transfer students, improving professor quality, and community colleges offering four year degrees. Universities are trying to establish high achieving scholarships to for citizens to save funds by attending community college free for 2 years, then pursuing a 4 year degree.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.