



Expectations of Decorum at UNC Board of Governors Public Comment Sessions

The UNC Board of Governors encourages members of the University community and the general public to participate in regular public comment sessions provided by the Board. To ensure fair access for a diversity of voices and to promote open dialogue on University issues, these sessions will follow longstanding guidelines for public meetings and democratic forums.

All members of the public are welcome to attend, but speakers will need to register prior to the start of the meeting. This allows the Board to set aside appropriate time for public comment, and allows speakers adequate notice to prepare public remarks. Comment sessions may be limited due to overall time constraints, but every reasonable effort will be made to facilitate full discussion of University issues.

The Board welcomes differing viewpoints, and meeting guidelines will be observed in order to ensure that speakers can share their comments.

Speakers will be given a set period of time to address the Board, ensuring that all registered speakers are afforded equal access. Speakers may not threaten or defame anyone in the course of their remarks, nor engage in profane or vulgar speech. Robust presentation of issues is encouraged, but personal attacks not permitted.

Any attendee who fails to abide by these basic rules of public gatherings — by depriving others of the opportunity to speak, obstructing public business, or otherwise preventing a fair and orderly comment session — is subject to arrest and prosecution under North Carolina law.

Freedom of speech is a cherished right, but intentional disruption of public business is not. Public comment sessions will respect that fundamental distinction.