

Committee on Public Affairs

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Minutes (Draft)

The Committee on Public Affairs met Thursday, September 17, at the School of Music at UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC. Committee members present included Chairman Holmes, Vice Chairman Powers, Secretary Hinton, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Mitchell, Chancellor Cummings and Dean Roper. Vice President Rhinehardt and Director of State Relations, Jonathan Kappler, attended as staff.

The August minutes were approved.

Chairman Holmes gave a brief welcoming statement to board members.

Kimrey Rhinehardt presented the federal update. Rhinehardt announced that Congress will pass a continuing resolution going through November or December of this year. Also, House Education and Workforce Committee Chair John Kline is likely to retire and NC Representative Virginia Foxx will be next in line for the Chairmanship of the full committee. Hopefully, this will elevate UNC's standing nationally. Lastly, Chairman Kline disclosed that reauthorization of the Higher Education Act will not occur until Congress reauthorized the elementary and secondary education bill.

Rhinehardt introduced the Federal Relations team at UNC General Administration and Jonathan Kappler introduced the State Relations team.

State Relations Director, Jonathan Kappler, gave the state legislative update. The NC State Legislature dropped the budget late Monday night. The Senate has approved it and the House will take it up Thursday night. The Governor has signaled that he will sign the budget Friday morning. This budget is an improvement for the UNC system over previous budgets. Enrollment growth is fully funded by the House and the Senate and there will be a \$750 bonus for all state employees. However, there is a \$17.5 million Management Flex Cut. Elizabeth City State's requests and the Brody School of Medicine at ECU have been fully funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.