

Committee on Public Affairs

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Minutes (Draft)

The Committee on Public Affairs met Thursday, May 21, 2015 in the C.D. Spangler Building of UNC-GA in Chapel Hill, NC. Committee members present included Acting Chairman Powers, Secretary Hinton, Mr. Rippey, Mr. Trask, Mr. Harrelson, Mr. McMahan, Mrs. Goodnight, Mr. Nath, Dr. Roper, Chancellor Roberts, and Interim Chancellor Sederberg. Ms. Wiley attended the meeting via phone. Other Board members in attendance included Chairman Fennebresque, Dr. Perry, Ms. Gage, Mr. Taylor, Ms. MacNeill, Mr. Long, and Mr. Parker. Vice President Rhinehardt, Assistant Vice President Dickens and Director of State Government Relations Jonathan Kappler attended as staff.

Senator Chad Barefoot was also in attendance.

The April 2015 minutes were approved.

Acting Chairman Powers gave a brief welcoming statement to board members and introduced Senator Chad Barefoot.

Senator Barefoot introduced himself and spoke about the rural/urban make up of his district. He is an Appalachian State graduate, and praised the UNC System for its economic impact on the State. Senator Barefoot took questions from members of the Board of Governors about the budget, the economic power of the UNC System, R&R, capital investments in the State, including in technology for students, his thoughts on Senate Bill 536, Students Know Before You Go, and 289, the Education Preparation Reform Act, and adding money to the budget so students at the North Carolina School of Science and Math students get free tuition in-state and stay in North Carolina for college.

Director Kappler presented the state update on the house budget in the General Assembly. The management flexibility cut, cut to advancement funding, and Set-off Debt Collection Act cut are either reduced or removed for the House version of the budget. The following BOG priority items have been built into the House version of the budget: carry forward, In-State tuition for Veterans, and a study of after tax benefit. Director Kappler shared the next steps in the state budget process and answered related questions from the committee.

Vice President Rhinehardt presented the federal update. Recently, the federal relations team was in Washington, DC, meeting with Senators Burr and Tillis and Representatives Adams and Rouzer. Congresswoman Adams developed a coalition that has resulted in a bi-partisan HBCU Caucus in the House. President Ross spoke at the launch. A top federal relations priority is “right-sizing” higher education regulation, which makes up roughly 7-8% of the budget for universities in the UNC System.

Acting Chairman Powers thanked the outgoing committee members for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.