



The University of North Carolina
Association of Student
Governments

ASG April Report to the UNC Board of Governors
ASG President Adam Schmidt
April 17, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's hard to believe that just 11 months ago I stood before you all to take the oath of office as I joined your ranks as the student member. Walking in, I knew I had a challenging year ahead of me, and, in that aspect, you all have in no way let me down. Sometimes it felt a little bit like a rollercoaster, but it's been a good ride.

The spring semester is usually a very busy time for the Association of Student Governments, and, under normal circumstances, I'd be sharing the details of the events and initiatives we would have put on in March and April. We planned to hold events on every campus highlighting students' rights, hold events at our HCBUs and MSIs discussing mental health in marginalized communities, and hold town halls with graduate students across the campuses trying to understand the unique and pressing issues they face. However, we all know that the times we live in are anything but normal. We as an Association wrestled with what we could do to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students while unable to be physically present at any campus. Looking at the list of events and initiatives we had to cancel, as well as moving our March and April meetings online, we decided to give the remaining \$65,000 in our annual budget to the student emergency funds across the System to help students in what has been and continues to be a very difficult time for many of us.



The University of North Carolina
Association of Student
Governments

I'm very happy to share the good news of our donation, but I'm even more excited to share that just a few days after we made our contribution, an anonymous donor came forward to match ASG, giving another \$65,000. Then, earlier this week, the Spangler Foundation came forward to give another \$235,000, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation shared their intent to give \$160,000. Donations continue to roll in, and the System has received over \$700,000 in donations for student emergency funds across the System. I'm incredibly grateful for the generosity of these donors, and for the fact that ASG could make a donation that has helped spur giving to student emergency funds across the System.

As I reflect on my time on this Board, I'm grateful for the support some of you have shown me throughout the year, working to make sure my questions got answered and that my opinion was heard and valued. I'm also incredibly grateful to the System Office staff who have been receptive to ideas that I've brought forward, and have always made sure I had the resources I needed to be successful. Leaving is bittersweet, since I felt like I was just starting to get a good handle on all this, but I'm excited for my next chapter too.

If you're wondering what's next for me, I will be pursuing a Master of Science in Civil Engineering at NC State, studying transportation planning, transportation economics, and how access to transportation impacts disadvantaged communities. That being said, I hear you're still looking for a president and will be a little while longer. Now



UNC
ASG

The University of North Carolina
Association of Student
Governments

that I'm no longer a Board member and would be eligible to serve, please know that I'm willing to step up and help out. I think it'd be a pretty good gig right out of college.

I've been in student leadership since my junior year at the School of Science and Math and out of those six years, this year as ASG President has been far and away the most challenging. That being said, it's been the most rewarding too. To say it's been an honor to serve my peers in this capacity would be an understatement, and I'm incredibly grateful to the trust they have placed in me. It is because of them that I am a better leader, a better friend, and a better person. I've seen some of you take the time to introduce yourself to students that attend these meetings, and I challenge you to continue to seek out students to talk to and understand what higher education is like from our perspective in today's world. Students are the reason we're all here.

I've long believed in the transformative power of higher education, and my year on this Board leaves me feeling all the more inspired. Come hurricane or pandemic, governance issue or leadership change, the good work we do of transforming lives continues. I'm proud of the work that our University does, I'm proud to be a North Carolinian, and I'm proud of the work I've been fortunate to do during my time as ASG President. I appreciate all you do to work to improve higher education in North Carolina and wish you all the best as that work continues.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Board, the System Staff, and my peers for their support and their challenge this year, and this concludes my report.