

APPENDIX I

Final Remarks to BOG

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning, everyone!

It's been wonderful to see everyone here at the University of North Carolina – School of the Arts, the innovation, the passion from the students, the faculty and the love for the craft of truly creating art, history and things that we will likely look back on and reflect on for years upon years to come, is truly inspiring.

Allow me to open up my final remarks with a little bit more about me. I am a first generation college student. My father is from Guatemala, my mother is from El Salvador. My dad worked construction by day, worked as a groom at equine boarding facilities by night. My mother was a housekeeper. Throughout the years, the work and determination my parents had, was for one primary thing. When my parents first sat me down and had the conversation about my future, they said told me that they could work, and give me everything in the world if I wanted it. A car, a house, a dog, a pony, anything, however, they told me, the most priceless thing, would be an education, the ability go into a world full of lifelong learning and opportunity, to succeed in a world full of opportunities. They worked to give me a stepping stone, a way to leap over and find a world that I truly only heard and seen in my dreams.

The work that the University of North Carolina System has done thus far has been instrumental for students that have backgrounds such as mine and a plethora of other ones to come in and see an opportunity in THE land of opportunities. Education teaches you to be a lifelong learner, to find the hidden solution to a difficult problem and most importunately, how to make an impact the in intricate woven tapestry of the society we call humanity. Part of that education is

the support system a university offers, how can we make sure that students at our Universities, feel supported in their endeavors to make sure that they graduate, have the foundation to find a job and start their career and become contributing members of our society. How can we make sure they are well prepared for a world full of difficult conversations. How can we make sure that the student experience is not one marked by just what you learn, but by what you experience. The world is a difficult place to navigate, and the last time I checked, in the united states we have 333 million people, in the world around 8 billion. How are we making sure that our students, future generations, future leaders for when we are gone are well prepared?

With that, I am proud to report that this year, ASG has given out a multitude of grants to clubs and organizations to assist with on-campus programming, have 3 groups of ASG Fellows researching topics that will be presented next week, have once again done the SNAP Initiative, attended ASG Legislative Advocacy Day in Raleigh, funded students to the Financial Literacy Symposium and Behavioral Health Convening, hosted individual campus Police Department sessions in collaboration with Vice President Sellers, put out an anonymous apps survey with over 400 responses to gain insight on these apps and the student perspective and finally, we are culminating with our Be Kind Campaign which has taken place already at some of our institutions. Please enjoy some of the trinkets placed at your seat. With physical materials like stickers and wristbands alongside with engaging students on and offline about why, these two words, Being Kind is important. Not just to be a good human being, but to also be able to navigate difficult conversations with individuals that have different opinions. Ultimately, reinvigorating student involvement in ASG, the relevance of the organization and relaying a

foundation that was disrupted by COVID was a large portion of our year and I am happy to say that we've accomplished that.

Additionally, I am excited to share a piece of legislation written and passed during our March Meeting, a Resolution of Appreciation for Chair Randy Ramsey for his work here within the Board of Governors and University of North Carolina System. Alongside our incoming ASG President and student board member, Cameron Brown, we are excited to present you with the framed legislation at the May meeting. We, as students, are greatly appreciative at the work being done to continue to have access to an affordable and quality education, and with that we say thank you.

Over a year ago, I was elected to become the President of the Association, around 11 months ago I took an oath to join this body as its student member. Every experience I've had has reaffirmed that higher education is a field that I love, would work and make an impact in. I continue to urge that this body and those that support to look through the lenses of the potential future, to make decisions holistically and to remember one large thing. Higher education is the business of changing the trajectory of the lives of our communities. IT changes lives. Just like it's changed mine.

Thank you to my institution, for giving me the opportunities and support that I needed to succeed and continue succeeding, thank you to the UNC System for developing these individual and unique institutions where every individual can find the right fit for them with the right support system they need. I am truly grateful for this opportunity to work and learn from you all. And don't worry, I'll be back in North Carolina and contribute to a positive ROI eventually.

Also I'll have a Master's by 2026, so if anyone wants a really awesome, self-motivated person who really loves higher ed. I'll be around. With that, that concludes my report.