

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

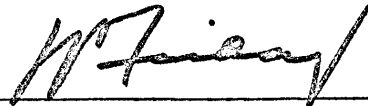
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT STUDENT GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS
WITH TRUSTEES

NUMBER 33
DATE June 22, 1971

Attached is a copy of a memorandum which has been transmitted to the presidents of the Student Government Associations at the campuses of the University, in response to expressions of concern by members of the Executive Committee on May 14 about the volume and type of unsolicited mailings which they have been receiving from student government officials.



William Friday, President

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

General Administration

CHAPEL HILL 27514

RICHARD H. ROBINSON, JR.
Assistant to the President

June 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM

To: Presidents of Student Government Associations,
University of North Carolina

Mr. Joseph Boylan
Mr. James Cochran
Mr. Gus Gusler
Miss Robie McFarland
Mr. Joe Stallings
Mr. Charles Sutton

From: Dick Robinson 

Re: Student Government Communications with Trustees

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees held on May 14, 1971, concern was expressed about the need to improve and regularize communications between student government officials and Trustees. The General Administration was requested to apprise student government officials of this concern and to formulate reasonable guidelines for future practice concerning student government communications with the members of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee members are anxious to have you understand that they do not intend to convey the impression that they are not interested in or do not welcome communications from students on matters of interest to Trustees. On the contrary, they acknowledge the importance of student contributions of information and opinion on many subjects which come before the Board and the Executive Committee. Thus, the guidelines here established are not designed to restrict the opportunities of students to make their views known. Rather, the Trustee concern is limited to questions about the manner in which such communications are handled.

The following guidelines are designed particularly to insure regularity of practice with respect to those issues which are placed on the agenda of

the Board or of the Executive Committee, either on motion of the Trustees or the General Administration or pursuant to the appellate process specified in the University Code. For example, the question of possible changes in the University policy on disruptions was placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee last year by the Administration. As an example of the second manner in which issues may be raised at the Trustee level, you will recall that the question concerning accounting practices for student activities fees was processed pursuant to a student government appeal from the Administrative Council to the Executive Committee. In either type of case, student contributions concerning such formal agenda items should be made in the following manner:

1. Appeals to the Executive Committee.

Section 3-2(c) of Chapter III of the University Code provides in material part: "The faculties, staffs or student bodies or any member thereof may have the right of appeal from the Chancellor to the President, and from the President to the Board, the appeal to be submitted through the Chancellor and the President. The President may refer for investigation and report any question of institutional concern or policy to any council, faculty, scientific, extension, or administrative staff. The channel for official communications between the President and the several institutions in such matters shall be through the Chancellors."

If the student government association, either on its own motion or on behalf of another organization or of an individual student, wishes to challenge the administrative disposition of an issue on campus, such appeal should be addressed through the Chancellor to the President. Under the Code provisions, quoted above, the President may refer such questions, for investigation and advice, to an agency of his choice. Thereafter, if the decision of the President is not satisfactory to the appellant, an appeal may be taken to the Executive Committee, which in most cases is authorized to act finally and definitively on behalf of the full Board. Such appeals are to be submitted through the President.

As supplement to these Code provisions, and pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Committee, it should be understood that all written materials relating to such an appeal which has been placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee should be submitted to the President's office rather than mailed directly to the

members of the Executive Committee. Such materials should be received by the President no later than 10 days in advance of the meeting at which the item is to be considered. Where appropriate, the President will, in turn, cause such written materials to be forwarded to the Executive Committee prior to consideration of the pertinent agenda item.

2. Student Contributions to Non-Appellate Agenda Items.

If student government associations wish to contribute information or opinions on any item previously placed on the Executive Committee agenda by any method other than through appeal (i.e. on motion of Trustees or the General Administration), they should submit their written materials to the President at least 10 days in advance of the meeting at which the item in question is scheduled for consideration; the President in turn, where appropriate, will forward such materials to the Executive Committee prior to consideration of the pertinent agenda item.

3. Student Requests for Trustee Consideration of Issues.

If an issue of interest to students is not amenable to administrative resolution and, thus, cannot be brought to Trustee attention through the usual appellate processes, or if the issue is one which previously has not been placed on the Executive Committee agenda on motion of Trustees or the General Administration, and students wish to have Trustee attention directed to such an issue, they may petition the President's office to seek permission from the Executive Committee to place such an issue on the agenda. Upon receipt of such a petition, the President may refer the question raised to an agency of his choice for investigation and advice. Such petitions should be received by the President at least 30 days in advance of the Executive Committee meeting at which it is proposed that the matter be introduced. If the President concludes that the subject of the petition may properly be called to the attention of the Executive Committee, all communications on the subject from students should be transmitted to the Executive Committee through the President's office, as in sections 1 and 2, above. If the President concludes that the matter should not be placed before the Executive Committee, he will promptly notify the petitioner of his decision and of his reasons for the decision. Thereafter, at the written request of the petitioner, the President will

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forward to the Executive Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting, a copy of his statement of decision and reasons, and final determination concerning whether to place the item in question on the agenda will be made by the Executive Committee.

Your cooperation with these guidelines, designed to clarify and regularize communications between you and the Trustees, will be much appreciated. If you have any questions about the policy, please contact me.