

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT HOUSTON SUMMERS' PREPARED REMARKS

UNC Board of Trustees Meeting

May 28, 2015

Good morning to everyone...

I am honored to be here today and couldn't be more excited to serve our university as a member of the Board of Trustees. I am sad to see so many great trustees moving on, but I am confident that the next board will be fantastic. Thank you all for your service to our great University.

Many of you know my story and my non-traditional route to Carolina, so I will not bore you with those details. But, I do want to discuss three aspects of my journey to UNC that I will strive to uphold as student body president.... Those are: opportunity, community, and service.

Every student that walks onto campus here has been given an amazing opportunity to pursue their educational and personal goals. We as a university must strive to ensure that all institutional barriers to access, funding, and support are minimized. My administration and I have begun taking a detailed look at a myriad of barriers- from financial to cultural- that may limit an individual's ability to attend this amazing university. I applaud every person and entity that continues to provide the means that so many of our students rely on in order to receive the best public education in the country.

Carolina. That word is special. Not just because of the blue, or the old well, or sports teams, but because of the people. The people that occupy this place every single day. This past year, has brought about times of tragedy and great celebration. The Carolina community has come together to support one another beautifully throughout all of these occasions. My administration plans to continue to host events and facilitate conversations that will build an even greater sense of community throughout our campus. I am encouraged that the incoming board will embrace the values and traditions of Carolina that make this place so very special to so many people.

A central theme in the mission of our university is one of service. We all are here to serve a "diverse population of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students" as they pursue their educational and professional goals. Additionally, the university is here to serve the great state of North Carolina and all its citizens. We all must continue to create opportunities that will allow our university to give back to our state and the country as a whole.

In closing, I would like to call upon the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He once said that "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of a true education." In the coming years Carolina must embrace the sentiment of Dr. King and continue to pursue excellence on all fronts in higher education well into the 21st century.

Thank you all.