

## **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ANDREW POWELL'S PREPARED REMARKS**

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Since we last met in July a lot has happened on campus. We successfully started a new school year. The first few weeks of the school year have been electric. I've thoroughly enjoyed speaking at convocation, parents weekend, and many other events. It initially struck me as strange that we had parents weekend just two weeks after parents had dropped their children off at move in day, but then it occurred to me that it's perfectly timed for when students need to get that first load of laundry done :)

I have a really great team in Student Government. Today's DTH gives a perfect example - Brent Comstock leads the student government tech team, takes classes, and runs a 15 person company back home. In fact, they are hiring right now. Really remarkable example of the innovative students we attract to Carolina. Additionally, yesterday's paper covered our town relations lead, Brannum Forsyth. We are doing a good job with Town relations this year. I went down to Athens on the Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce Intercity Visit earlier this week and got to know many of the Town of Chapel Hill leaders. I have been working closely with town leadership, and in fact we have managed to get students on most all of the town boards and commissions. Being intentional and strategic about student body/town relations will, I hope, create positive lines of communication that mutually address student and town concerns to build a stronger Chapel Hill community.

Plus, have 18 others just like these two who lead teams of their own - each with anywhere from 5 - 20 students. We spent a few weeks recruiting new students then we had a leadership retreat two weekends ago, so the team is ramping up. Altogether, we now have over 200 students involved in student government. A number of those student government leaders are here in the audience this morning.

Student Government has been working closely with faculty, graduate student leadership and my fellow undergraduate students. A few quick examples of the results of this work.

### **Student athletes**

We saw a need to represent student athletes better, we've worked with a number of remarkable students from a variety of athletics teams.

- We've added a student athlete to the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor

- We've worked with Joy Renner and FAC and have Benton Moss attending those meetings to represent student athlete perspectives
- We have a student from the football team leading an athletics group within student government

### **Mental Health**

We've worked with the Royster Society of Fellows on the Stigma Free Carolina campaign.

### **Safety**

We have worked with Student Congress to address funding issues and have found money to sustain the SafeWalk program, which plays an important role in on-campus student safety.

Furthermore, beyond these important collaborations, I want to talk about three things that student government is focusing on right now that are big:

### **Innovation**

Judith Cone's presentation yesterday gave a great summary of University innovation efforts. So much has been done over the past ten years.

However, there is still much more that we can do; the potential is tremendous. We're trying to make sure on a student level that the great work being done on a macro level is being translated.

I've commissioned a task force which VP Kyle Villemain will chair which will document the current student landscape and recommend ways to bridge any gaps that exist for student ventures. We have a tremendous group of administrators, faculty, and students involved in the task force, and I am confident that they will be able to connect some dots for students as we continue accelerating our university wide innovation work.

### **Blended Learning** - excited to see Kelly's presentation today

We have been working with the Provost office, CFE, faculty, and fellow students, and we continue to be very excited about the progress being made. With the Online Task Force report finalized, we are moving into our implementation phase. I am eager to give a more detailed update at our next meeting.

### **Need-based Aid**

After changes were made to Need-based Aid policy, we held an event at the Campus Y to explain the changes to students and to make clear that Carolina's commitment to meeting 100% of demonstrated need remains unchanged. We had a very strong student turnout. The event was a testament to the amount Carolina values our dedication to financial aid. I shared some of student stories at the event of those directly affected by Carolina's aid programs, and

student government will continue to tell the story of what need-based aid does for UNC. Thank you as well to the Chancellor and to Vice Provost Farmer for speaking at the event.

Finally, I want to conclude by saying a thank you to Trustee Shuping-Russell and Trustee Lerner and to the students from Sierra Student Coalition. We saw yesterday a model of students and trustees communicating well and working closely together. Over the past few years, the students and Trustees have worked together to find a smart, practical, and forward-looking solution to sustainable investment of endowment funds. Collaboration like that is inspiring, and I thank both the Students and the Trustees for their hard work on this initiative.

With that Mr. Chairman, I conclude my comments.