

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

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2014

With my remarks, I would like to give a quick update on what I have been doing since our last meeting and what I have planned for the next few months.

I have enjoyed getting to know the Trustees better the past two months as I have learned the ropes of this new role. Everyone has been very kind, and I appreciate all of your help.

I was invited up to the White House earlier this summer, along with a number of other students from across the country. I enjoyed a few days of visiting with leaders in Washington to discuss college affordability. So, I was honored to follow in Chancellor Folt's footsteps in making that trip (though by my last count I understand that I am at least 3 steps behind) as she's been invited up to the White House four times now! Interacting with other students leaders from across the country reminded me that nearly all the challenges we face are shared nationally. But this fact is nothing to shy away from. Therein we have a great opportunity to lead the way, and I have full confidence that we will continue to do so in the face of the most daunting challenges, and the nation will benefit.

I have spent the summer, along with my Vice President Kyle Villemain, working on a number of projects and initiatives to get prepared for the year ahead. The most significant amount of my time has been spent on blended learning and course redesign related initiatives. I am enthusiastic about the work of the online task force, which Provost Dean spoke briefly about yesterday at the University Affairs committee meeting. The work of this talented group is incredibly important and valuable for our university, and I eagerly await the opportunity to share the recommendations out of that Task Force in September. We are currently positioning a team to be ready to take action in support of those recommendations as soon as they come out. I have had exciting conversations with graduate and professional student president Shelby Dawkins-Law and faculty chair Bruce Cairns, and I am very optimistic about what we can accomplish this year with strong undergraduate, graduate, and faculty support in place to build off the strength of the upcoming recommendations. This online and blended education work has been an embodiment of what I discussed at our last meeting - that Carolina is a place where traditional excellence and fresh new thinking mutually thrive.

I also spent a significant amount of time in Raleigh, meeting with State representatives to talk about the value of our university. I met with nearly every legislator directly involved with education appropriations. I spoke primarily about the necessity of state investment to keep

down tuition and to enable us to retain our best faculty. I am disappointed by the scheduled non resident tuition increase, but I was very encouraged and appreciative of the hard work of the administration and members of this board to minimize the negative impacts on our students. I am sure we will continue to tell Carolina's story in the long session with clarity and conviction.

On a more personal note, I was sad to see that some really integral faculty members will be leaving UNC this year. There are two I will mention who have had a big impact on me personally. Dr. Jeremy Petranka was by many accounts one of the best teachers at UNC. He is beloved and respected by students - he was one of my favorite instructors - and he was on the cutting edge of active learning techniques and blended learning course models. I wish him all the best in his new role, but he will be sorely missed. Likewise, Dr. Russell Mumper was a visionary and innovative thinker who led flipped classroom curricular redesign of the School of Pharmacy. I congratulate him on his new Vice Provost role at Georgia, but I know he will be missed in Chapel Hill.

On a somber note, I want acknowledge the passage of one of my classmates, Harris Pharr, class of 2015, a few weeks ago. We as a student body are very saddened by this loss, and our thoughts and prayers are continually with Harris' family.

I am very much looking forward to the start of the school year. I have an incredible team, who are currently spending their summers all around the world. Kyle is now working in Switzerland, Linda is working for Google in Senegal, Neel is doing sports media consulting in New York, Allie just returned from Uganda, Brent is leading his own multi-person company in Nebraska.. the list goes on. They are a remarkable crowd. I am eager to get them all back in Chapel Hill assisting me on our ambitious agenda for the year.

Finally, I have had the pleasure speaking at most of the first-year orientation sessions throughout the summer and I am pleased to report that my speech is getting marginally better each time. I guess after twelve tries I am bound to get it right. I have particularly enjoyed seeing Trustee Learner, Vice Chancellor Curran, Paul Krause, Bubba Cunningham and a number of other good friends at these sessions who have children coming entering the incoming class. I hope to represent this distinguished group of constituents well.