

SAVANNAH PUTNAM

for **Student Body President**

Our Platform

build together

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Meet Savannah

Hi Folks,

My name is Savannah Putnam and I am running for Student Body President. I come from a small town in western North Carolina, where everyone seems to have a similar view of the world. When I arrived at Carolina, my view of the world expanded, transformed, and pushed me beyond the boundaries of the previous 18 years. I was an over-excited and eager First-Year ready to get involved. I have done everything from teaching a 6 a.m. yoga class for the campus landscapers to conducting research surrounding women in politics for the School of Government. I found myself taking on a role in Student Government and quickly realized that it is more than just a title-- this office has the ability to be a direct avenue to change. In my three short years here, I have become inspired to work for a cause, and that cause is making Carolina more inclusive for all.

In order to develop policy that best fits the student body, my team and I got on the ground and were able to gather a very diverse perspective about what Student Government can do to better serve the students it represents. Students from different walks of life shared how their Carolina experiences were affected by a certain issue. From those long talks with a multitude of students, we were able to develop a purely student-driven platform. If Student Government policy should be anything at all, it should be a reflection of what the student body holds to be most valuable, and that is exactly what this is.

The policy revolves around two main concepts: feasible and attainable. The goals will be completed within my year in office and will ultimately reinstate an attitude of service within Student Government.

I look forward to the challenge and am inspired by the wonderful people who surround me daily. I am ready to make Carolina a place where everyone feels valued.

Every single one of the goals in this platform can be completed, but only if we #BuildTogether

Go to Hell Dook,

Savannah Putnam

Savannah Putnam

Priorities of the Administration

Two Words

**Feasible and
Attainable.**

Mental Health

- Destigmatizing mental health issues on campus
- **Why is CAPS failing? Conduct an internal evaluation**
- **Mental Health Mondays**
- Greater resources for first-years/ increase RA training on how to help their students**

First-generation Students

- **Successful mentorship program to pair students with professors and/or leaders in the community**
- **Optional orientation break-out session**
- Create an online community for first-generation students to allow for quick transferral of resources**

Restructuring Student Government

- **Student Government should be highly responsive to the student body it represents**
- **Increase transparency and visibility**
- **Meet with leaders of student organizations to see how student government can best serve them**

Mental Health

Our Vision

Mental health problems and the commonly constrained mental well-being of students is a prominent campus issue that is entangled with stigmas and discriminations. These deeply rooted stereotypes prevent many students from seeking out and receiving the long-term support that they need. There are numerous ways in which student organizations and campus resources have been working to batle these shortcomings and stigmas. However, many of these efforts are insufficient or can be greatly improved. The platform includes a range of supplementary campaigns to further promote a campus-wide focus on mental health and the optimization of well-being for all students on campus.

Conduct an internal evaluation of UNC's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Counseling and Psychological Services, more commonly known as CAPS, provides numerous essential mental health services on campus, including individual therapy, group therapy, couples therapy, and general psychiatric assistance for students. However, due to financial and logistical limitations, there are many shortcomings of such services, such as the maximum of 6 free consecutive therapy sessions before referral to an outside professional. Many students are in need of more accessible long-term therapy options.

- Gather data on long-term effectiveness, accessibility, and awareness of CAPS programs through a series of anonymous surveys and follow-ups with CAPS participants
- Create a student government task force that works closely with UNC Healthy Heels and serves as an advisory board to CAPS based on data analysis and feedback from students
- Improve campus awareness of CAPS services by marketing their services

Partner with campus organizations to pool resources for mental health awareness and improvement.

Multiple campus organizations have effective campaigns to both quell stigmas surrounding mental illness and improve mental health resources on campus. However, we believe that these efforts would be greatly advanced by amassing the volunteers and ideas of organizations like Rethink and Healthy Heels.

- Create an external appointment in the Campus Y, specifically for mental health-focused committees (Embody Carolina, Rethink) to achieve goals of de-stigmatization
- Organize a monthly meeting that invites leaders of each of these student organizations to discuss current mental health efforts and collaborate to optimize effects of support groups

Create a mental health campaign within the executive branch Academic Affairs committee focused on incorporating mental well-being concerns into syllabi and course evaluations

Academic stress coupled with the stress of everyday life can sometimes be extremely overwhelming and immobilizing. It is important the professors recognize the needs of their students outside of the classroom.

- Require "Mental Health Days" to be built into all course syllabi
- *Dependent on extent to which attendance policies change throughout whole school* - get update on status
- Require the acknowledgement of campus mental health resources in each course syllabus
- Add a section of questions measuring mental health support to course evaluations
- Possible questions for the course evaluations include:
 - How safe/supported did you feel in this class setting?
 - Did the professor remain supportive of mental well-being?
- Require a larger focus on mental health in LFIT courses
- Encourage class discussion on how mental health and physical health are often closely linked, as well as how physical activity can often improve mental health
- The removal of MyFitnessPal activities, as outlined in the Safety and Wellness policy, would further the prioritization of mental health in LFIT by discouraging unhealthy dieting and calorie-counting

Establish a greater emphasis on first-year mental well-being

Coming to Carolina is a big transition. In order to promote the safety of incoming first-years, emphasizing mental health will hopefully make the integration into college life easier.

- Incorporate sessions on becoming accustomed to college life, as well as the social and academic stressors that come with it
- Create a support group for out-of-state students in particular
- Implement RA training, especially for those placed in freshman dorms (see policy idea below)

Improve RA training for supporting residents with mental disorders and informing all residents of all resources and support groups on campus

Resident advisors play a major role in the life of students. RA's should have access to plenty of resources and information to better serve their residents.

- Ensure that the RAs are informed about the wide range of mental health resources on campus, even beyond CAPS
- Encourage to share this information with residents
- Use bulletin boards and flyers to better advertise events, support groups, and detail how to recognize signs of mental illness.
- Require RAs to include a mental health component (briefing on campus events, reminder of CAPS and other constant mental health resources) in periodic RA email blasts and check-ins with residents
- Implement RA training on how to be a source of emotional support for residents if necessary, until professional help can be made available
- Require Rethink and OneAct/HAVEN Training?

Create a monthly mental health campaign

"Mental Health Monday," will seek to raise awareness of mental health services on campus and encourage students to practice mindfulness and self-care.

- Each month, student organizations on campus can sign up to pass out messages of encouragement and mindfulness in the pit and the quad
- Slips of paper will also provide information on the mental health events and support groups occurring each month
- Supplemented with the creation of a graphic that compiles all mental health and mindfulness-related events/support groups on campus that is updated monthly
- Student government website/social media
- CAPS website
- Student wellness website

First-Generation Students

Changes in the structure of orientation

In order to better relay mental health resource information and contribute to de-stigmatization of mental “illness” a change in the structure of orientation is needed.

- Implement task force to apply for a psychiatric services grant:
- Grant money would pay for a transportation campaign that funds a partnership with Uber or Lyft
- In this partnership, Uber or Lyft would provide transportation for students in need of psychiatric services or counseling at off-campus locations
- Reach out to other potential partners who may be able to help with funding
- Ensures that students of all financial needs are able to access the long-term care that they need

Our Vision

While talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not. Almost twenty percent of undergraduate students are Carolina Firsts, or first generation college students, and the university certainly uses this high percentage as a marketing tool. Carolina can be an intimidating place, especially if you don't know where to go for answers, or otherwise, feel uncomfortable asking questions. It is a central belief of our campaign that the university should provide safe spaces and resources so that all students can reach their full potential at Carolina. The Putnam Administration aims to ensure that first generation college students are provided the university support that they deserve to feel comfortable, accepted and successful from the moment they become a Tar Heel.

A Successful Mentorship Program for First Year First Generation Students

While Carolina Firsts currently has a mentorship program, there are issues with retainment and unresponsive mentors. It is critical to the success of an incoming student that they feel supported, but our program proposal is more in tune with the preferences of first generation students today.

- Match every incoming student with a professor who was also a first generation student; in practice, these mentors have been both highly responsive and helpful. Each student will also be provided with a resource kit that has the contact information, a short biography and the office hours of all of these professors
- Provide a guidebook to all professors with references on how to support first generation college students in their classrooms. Each syllabus should make inclusiveness clear, particularly to this group of students, but it is also critical that professors know how to help first generation students that come to them
- Create a mentor program modeled around community. In this model, a small group of first year students, dependent on their interests, are paired with an older first generation student. This allows students to learn from their peers and creates a community to lean on throughout their four years

Mentorship and Advising for Graduate and Professional School Hopefuls

For students without family members that have attended college, getting into Carolina was already a hard fought battle. Navigating applications for undergraduate programs, like Kenan-Flagler Business School or Gillings School of Public Health, or understanding how to prepare for graduate or professional school, can feel additionally confusing and overwhelming. No student should feel like they've missed an opportunity just because they didn't learn about it in their first few years at school.

-Offer application workshops for students, preferably from a professor that is both in the area of interest and represents the first generation student population

-Provide presentations from professors and leaders in the particular field of interest, from undergraduate programs like business or public health to professional programs like law or medical school

-Create mentorship groups that meet to specifically support first generation students during the application process. This can be within the aforementioned mentor communities, or it can exist outside of the general group meetups

First Year Orientation Break Out Sessions

An optional break out session at first year orientation will provide a space for first generation students to ask important questions without feeling judged or singled out.

-Provide a time for students to ask questions without feeling judged or singled out.

The Carolina Firsts weekend isn't necessarily accessible for all first generation students, so it is important that these students have a safe space at whatever orientation session they attend

-Help parents help their students. While parents and guardians often want to support and help their students, they may feel uninformed when it comes to how to navigate college. Providing them with resources and allowing time for questions will strengthen their ability to be a support system for their student

-Restructure Admitted Students Day so it feels less like a marketing event and more like an opportunity for first generation students to gain the information they need

Create an Online Community for First-Generation Students

Our generation relies on the internet to get information, but students shouldn't have to spend hours individually digging for information on scholarships, organizations and other things pertinent to their success at Carolina. An online community will allow Carolina Firsts to collaborate and socialize with each other, even before arriving at Carolina.

-Allow students to reject the idea that all first generation students come from similar backgrounds

-Carolina Firsts are diverse in the way that they serve. Senior and Student Leader spotlights will show younger students what is possible during their time here, as well as provide points of contact for areas of interest

-Creation of a Google Drive that is shared within the online community will contain information from older first generation students, on topics from class and professor recommendations to scholarships to apply for

Restructuring Student Government

Our Vision

While the current student government has improved the relationship between Student Government and the student body, there is much room for growth. Student Government still struggles to emulate the desires of the student body, specifically within the almost 1,000 student organizations on campus. In order to properly respond to the student body, the following proposals will ensure that student voice is echoed throughout Student Government.

A Restructuring of Student Government to Improve Responsiveness

Student government is put in place to serve, and if anything it should be held accountable for the decisions that they make. This administration will prioritize students' needs.

- Create task forces to work in conjunction with committees in order to further succeed in improving and excelling at proper student programming. These task forces will implement action items based on the ideas and goals derived from committees.

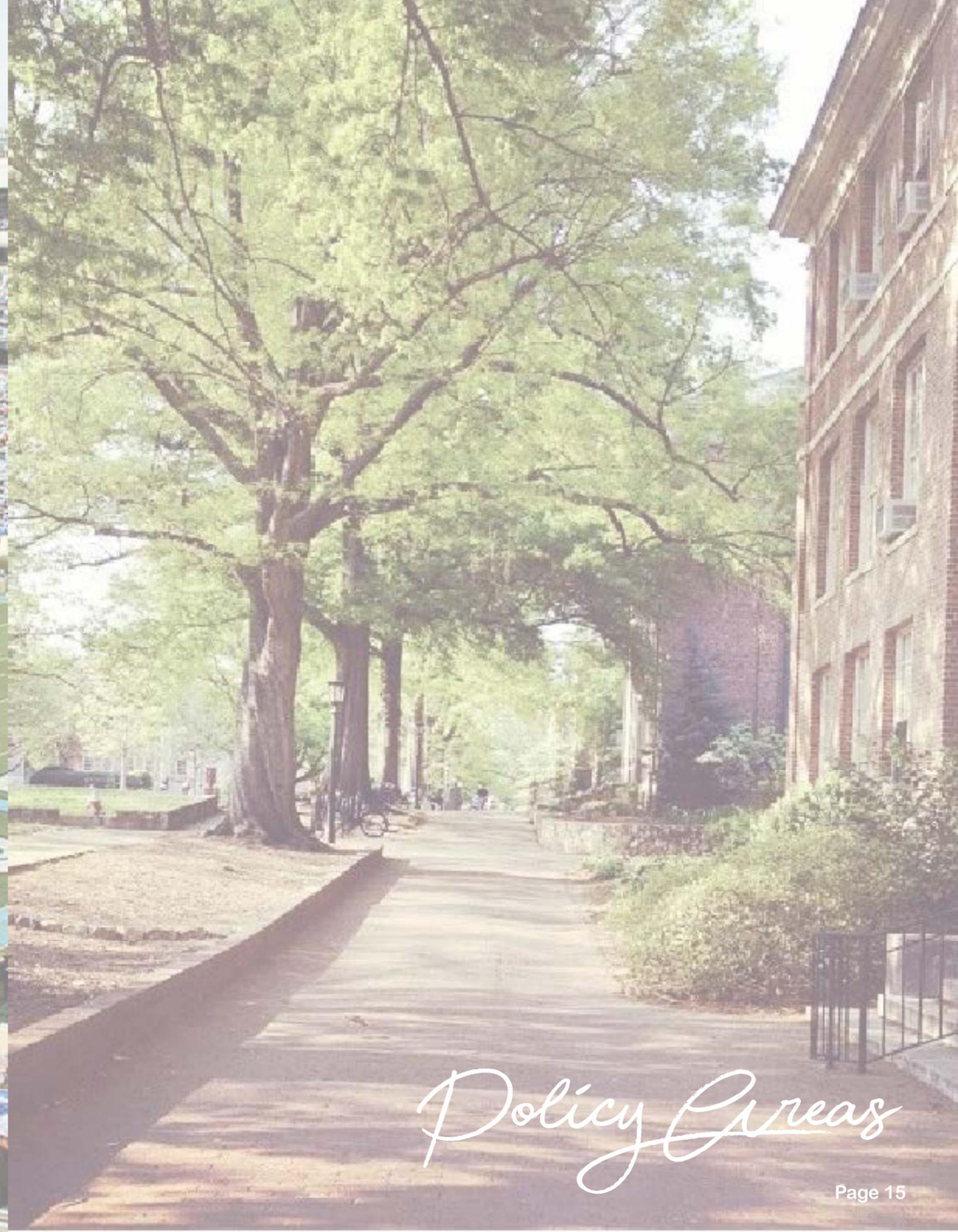
- Utilize the special projects team throughout the year to address unique time-sensitive issues as they arise. For example, a special projects team will focus on grant writing in order to better fund Student Government and on-campus organizations alike.

Increased Accessibility to the Greater Student Body

Students should have access to this administration at all times. This is simple and can be done by expanding communication between the Executive Branch and leaders of student organizations.

- Expand external appointees to be committed members of organizations on campus. This will allow Student Government members to have a strong grasp of the organizations on campus and what Student Government can do to assist these organizations in flourishing

- Accessibility of the Executive Branch. Holding "office hours" and opening up the suite in the union to foster and "open-door" policy.



Policy Areas

Safety and Wellness

Our Vision

Student Safety and Wellness works to improve the health and security of all undergraduate students through different methods of awareness. These include bringing awareness to safety and wellness topics by planning related events and advocating for policy reform. The Putnam Administration will create an environment that is more cognizant of sexual assault and is more capable to identify and address factors that increase susceptibility of sexual assault through the implementation of the Angel Shot, increased participation in One Act trainings, and further measures. Reforming LFIT curriculum, increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety, and increasing the availability of free and low-cost period care products and STI testing also hold key to this committee.

Implement the “Angel Shot” in bars on Franklin Street and other popular venues

The “Angel Shot” is a program that would place signs in bathrooms of bars, fraternities, and other venues instructing guests how to discreetly ask the venue for help if they are feeling unsafe. Implementing the Angel Shot in more venues near campus will promote an environment of safety and provide an action plan in case someone is drugged, intoxicated, or feeling unsafe.

- Study how and why the Angel Shot was implemented at Goodfellows Bar
- Determine if the various ways to order an Angel Shot are effective and enforce them accordingly
- Reach out to bars and fraternities about implementing the Angel Shot and provide them with resources to do so; namely, create the signage for restrooms describing the Angel Shot and how to use it
- Include information about bystander intervention on the signage
- Reach out to Raise the Bar and utilize the resources and trainings they offer
- Request support from the town government to help implement and enforce this policy

Reform LFIT curriculum, particularly the calorie-counting unit that requires students to track calories with MyFitnessPal

All students at UNC are required to take one Lifetime Fitness, or LFIT, which serves as an introduction to fitness and wellness. Currently, the Dietary Analysis Lab requires students to record all of their meals on the MyFitnessPal app for a week and write a reflection on their diet, as well as what they are going to do moving forwards. The MyFitnessPal app assigns a daily calorie goal given a student's characteristics and calculates calorie intake using the meal data that students enter. For students who have struggled with eating disorders, or for students vulnerable to developing such disorders, this is an incredibly triggering activity. Additionally, research has shown that counting calories is an ineffective way to promote long-term weight management and healthy eating choices, meaning that this lab not only significantly harms a percentage of UNC students, but that it also has no real benefit.

- Focus specifically and in greater depth on eating disorders within new curriculum
- Better addresses eating disorders through MFIT (Mental Fitness)
- Work directly with Rebecca Battaglini, Department Chair Darin Padua, and the Department of Exercise and Sports Science in the revision of the curriculum and ensure student representation
- Use data gathered from LFIT surveys happening in 2017-2018 school year to guide reform
- Reform the lab that requires students to track calories instead of simply offering an optional alternative assignment by replacing MyFitnessPal with a different learning tool such as another app that does not require the input of triggering data for students
- Work with CEED and Embody to help create an alternative app to perform an altered version of the Dietary Analysis lab that does not require students to count calories, and also would allow TA's to check in their students progress throughout the week
- Incorporate sensitivity training into the TA training at the beginning of the academic school-year
- Incorporate a self-defense class into LFIT curriculum either as a lab or in place of a day of physical activity

Make the Old Well wheelchair accessible, and advocate for accessibility in other areas of campus

Students with physical disabilities are barred from the revered tradition of drinking from the Old Well on FDOC as UNC has not wanted to change the historic aesthetic of the Old Well by making it wheelchair accessible.

- Reach out to UNC administration to both exert pressure and receive support for a project to remedy the solution for the Old Well
- Work with the biomedical engineering department to design a ramp that the university will approve of, such as one that is removable or that flips out of the ground
- Identify other areas that need increased accessibility and advocate for changes, including designating more handicap tables in dining halls

Promote One Act trainings on campus as well as other educational trainings

Promoting participation in One Act trainings will empower students to take an active role in preventing violence in all types of relationships and contributing to an overall safer, more inclusive campus environment.

- Increase the participation of the Carolina community - particularly IFC and GAC members - in One Act trainings to reduce sexual and interpersonal assault on campus
- Encourage students to participate in Rethink, Embody, Haven, and other trainings
- Promote the workshops that Healthy Heels Ambassadors offers, such as Stress Management and Alcohol 101 to student groups, including the Undergraduate Student Government
- Require members of Student Safety and Wellness to participate in trainings so they can better understand and address the topics

Mitigate sexual assault on campus

In addition to implementing the Angel Shot and promoting One Act trainings on campus, Student Safety and Wellness will take further measures to promote awareness of sexual assault and increase safety in Chapel Hill.

- Publicize the events of Carolina Sexual Assault Coalition, including the survivor-based speaker series to increase sexual assault awareness
- Add more sexual assault information to orientation such as active bystander training, reporting sexual assaults, or a survivor monologue
- Work with Academic Affairs in this endeavor
- Create an active bystander pledge for students to sign
- Screen Hunting Grounds as an incentivized event and invite officials to talk about the documentary and what has changed since the documentary was made
- Exert pressure on UNC officials to stick to old sexual assault rules under the Obama Administration's "Dear Colleague" Letter

Increase access to period care products and STI testing on campus

Period care products should be free in campus spaces other than the Union.

- Support and unite existing student efforts to lobby the UNC administration for funds to provide free period care products in all major bathrooms on campus, in residence hall lobby areas, and in heavily trafficked communal areas near bathrooms
- Encourage local clinics to offer free STI/STD check-up days and work with UNC administration to provide transportation to these events for students

Work with IFC to install interpersonal violence resources in all (all gender) bathrooms in their Greek housing

Publicizing resources within Greek housing will serve to mitigate sexual assault and will provide a safer environment for students within and interacting with the Greek community.

- Approach IFC officers about posting bystander intervention and reporting resources in all bathrooms in IFC housing
- Disseminate existing UNC-approved interpersonal violence resources to receptive fraternities and assist in hanging these flyers/posters in their bathrooms

Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on and surrounding campus

Increasing lighting, improving crosswalks, and advocating for other safety measures will make navigating UNC's campus, whether by foot or by bike, a safer and easier endeavor.

- Identify and revamp crosswalks that can be improved, including increasing the number of crosswalks with flashing pedestrian warning lights
- Identify and address areas in need of more lighting, including the Ehringhaus pathway
- Pursue grants to increase crosswalk and pathway lighting and other safety measures on campus
- Encourage helmet use on campus with the new Tar Heel Bikes program and increase accessibility of helmets
- Coordinate with related external appointments such as to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee and the Safety and Security Committee to make improvements

Create a comprehensive health resources guide for students

A comprehensive digital guide that compiles resources available to students will empower students to utilize relevant information and wellness resources as they need them.

- Compile all different types of resources that promote safety and wellness into one comprehensive guide, including resources for physical health, mental health, and sexual health
- List the locations of gender neutral bathrooms on campus
- Include student organizations in the guidebook that offer relevant trainings and services, such as Safewalk
- Include contact information, addresses, and hours of resources, if relevant
- Provide to residence halls and other student housing such as Greek houses
- Pub to student organizations on campus

Implement more resources for students who are writing course withdrawal appeals

Writing an appeal for withdrawal from a course - whether for non-medical, medical, or psychological reasons - is a very individualized process which means there are very few university resources and no real peer resources because the process is so student-specific.

- Work with Academic Advising, the Office of the Dean of Students, and CAPS to both publicize existing resources and to increase resources for students who are writing non-medical appeals through advising.unc.edu to withdraw from classes throughout the semester
- Work to publicize existing resources and to increase resources for students withdrawing from classes late in the semester, considering the medical and psychological appeals to withdraw from classes after the semester drop deadline has passed must also go through advising.unc.edu
- Bring more awareness of proactive resources, such as "identifying" with Accessibility Resources and Services (ARS) - who can create official contracts and advocate on students behalfs - so that should a student find themselves needing to withdraw from a course or needing additional resources or support in general, official documentation that can better secure accommodations and support exists
- Exert pressure on academic departments to have professors and faculty address mental health on FDOC and on their syllabuses, and encourage the implementation of policies that would require professors and faculty to work with students returning from prolonged absences
- Encourage professors to have at least one mental health day built into their syllabus as an excused absence
- Make students more aware of Mental Health Ambassadors, an organization of students who can help advocate on the behalf of students who may not know how to start or approach conversations with their professors regarding mental health

Civic Engagement

Our Vision

Now more than ever, lowering the barriers of entry for students to engage in local, state, national, and international politics is of utmost importance. A lack of accessibility to impartial resources is causing the Carolina student body to be uninformed about the current political climate. This administration's priority is to further support students' efforts to form and strengthen their own opinions by promoting the foundations of democracy: conversation, political engagement and critical thought. This will create a Carolina student body that is attentive, informed and vocal during a historical time in American history.

Vigilantly promote both the ACCESSIBILITY and EASE of activities related to civic engagement on campus.

For both political and logistical reasons, engaging in politics is not always the easiest activity to do on campus. Often, it is a battle to even get on-campus polling places for students to exercise their civic duty. This administration recognizes this challenge, which is far-reaching and has implications for both local and state policy decisions.

- Ensure that there are on-campus and accessible polling places for the 2018 midterm season. Once that is secured, this administration will launch a public campaign to get students to the polls, both on the ground and on social media. Informative flyers on all candidates will be distributed to all students so that they can make informed choices before they exercise their right to vote
- Better utilize the voice of the administration as a representation of the student body in order to push policy and communicate students' preferences. This voice will be informed not by anyone's personal politics or agenda, but rather the needs and wishes of students that are expressed during the proposed "Town Halls," which are discussed further below. Since the elected SBP has a seat on the UNC Board of Trustees, this administration is confident that it will have a strong voice to represent the voices of students across the spectrum
- Protect the rights of students to politically participate. Aside from advocating for on-campus polling places, this administration will also vigilantly promote student rights to protest and petition. Infringement on these rights will not result in silence

Educate the student body on local, state, and national policy issues by launching a bipartisan video campaign that includes easily understandable yet informative language.

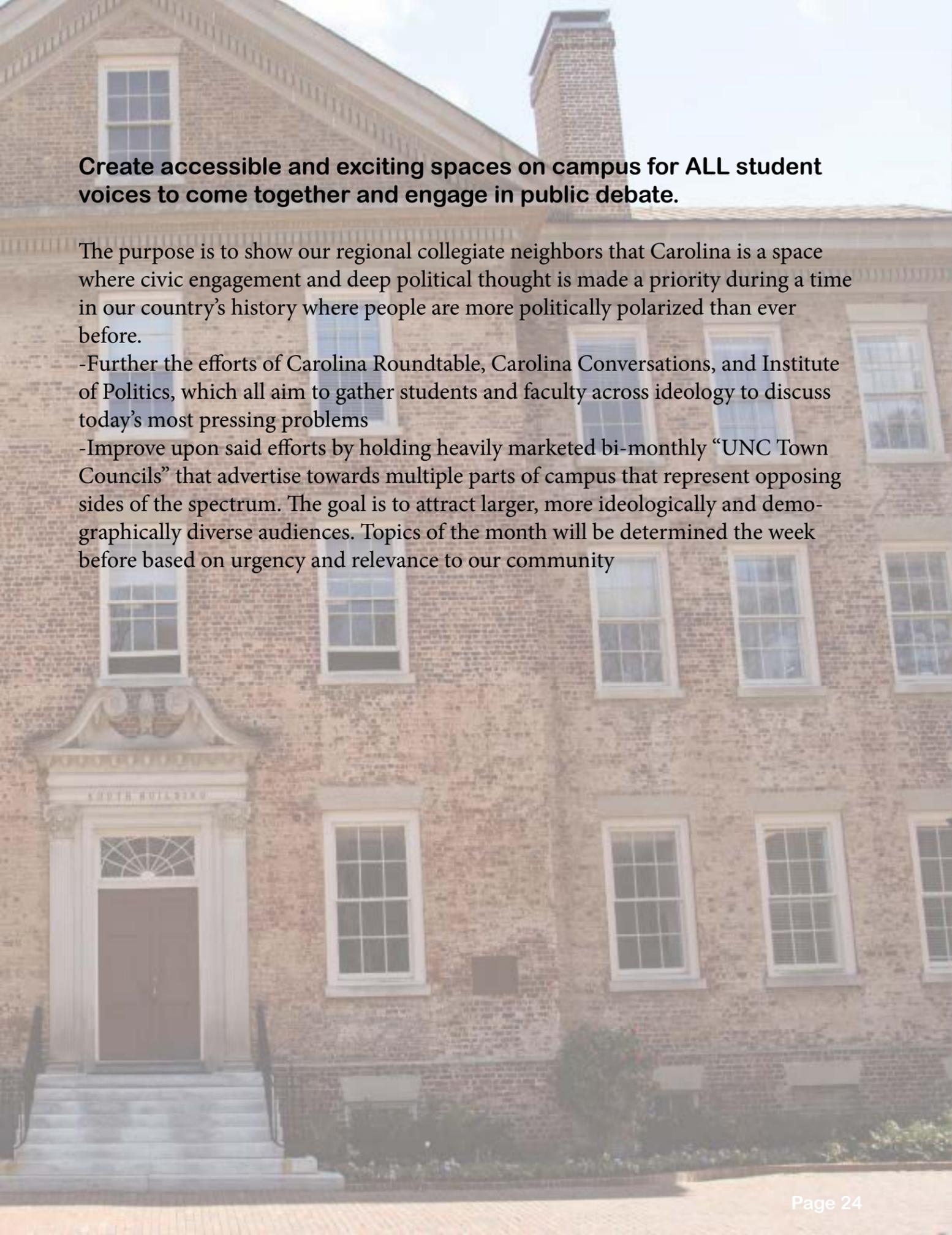
Not all students have time to read political news or themselves on today's congressional motions that will affect our future. Acknowledging that it is difficult to find a bipartisan news outlet that gives you the objective "gist" on how policies may affect the student body, this administration will be dedicated to publishing biweekly videos that will educate the student body on today's most important policy topics.

- Have each individual, 60 to 180 second video will deeply discuss both sides of a single policy issue that we believe is important to be informed about. Issues will range across policies that affect Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and/or the entire country
- Maintaining a bipartisan and objective educational tone, writers for the scripts of these policy videos will represent both sides of the political spectrum. They will be forced to come together and choose language that fairly and holistically describes the policy topic at hand
- Publish videos will be published monthly to begin and will aim to reach a bi-weekly publication staff

Mobilize the student body on aforementioned local, state, and national policy issues by sending out reminders to act as well as information on how to act.

Even if students are informed, busy schedules often impede motivation to become active citizens that engage in issues they are passionate about. This administration is dedicated to remind students of their civic duty to remain engaged and involved in politics, including simple public reminders to call our representatives and use our voices.

- Produce a monthly email that summarizes recent local, state, and national policy issues that students should be informed on. The writers of this listserv will also represent opposite sides of the political spectrum to promote objectivity and fairness
- Construct an email that will include a list of "action items" for students to stay politically engaged, including a list of on-campus activities that students may participate in
- Announce reminders to call your local and state representatives at football and basketball games, sponsored by student government



Create accessible and exciting spaces on campus for ALL student voices to come together and engage in public debate.

The purpose is to show our regional collegiate neighbors that Carolina is a space where civic engagement and deep political thought is made a priority during a time in our country's history where people are more politically polarized than ever before.

- Further the efforts of Carolina Roundtable, Carolina Conversations, and Institute of Politics, which all aim to gather students and faculty across ideology to discuss today's most pressing problems
- Improve upon said efforts by holding heavily marketed bi-monthly "UNC Town Councils" that advertise towards multiple parts of campus that represent opposing sides of the spectrum. The goal is to attract larger, more ideologically and demographically diverse audiences. Topics of the month will be determined the week before based on urgency and relevance to our community

Academic Affairs

Our vision

UNC is a leading research university, but there are always academic policy and quality of life improvements that can and should be made. Academic Affairs will work with students and administrators to improve academic policy and programs to better suit all students. One way of accomplishing this is to serve as a key source of student feedback to wide-reaching administrative reforms that will reshape many parts of the academic experience. Another way is through increasing administrative transparency and ensuring that the administration is accountable to the student body.

Work with Academic Advising, Career Services, and the general UNC Administration to reform the advising experience for students

There is often a lack of coordination. Many different advising resources available to students on campus, and students are forced to jump back and forth between different services to find the help that they need.

- Work with both Academic Advising, Career Services, and other organizations to better coordinate student advising by acting as a student voice in administrative meetings and reform movements
- Collaborate with the administration to implement policy measures to encourage collaboration among various student services
- Prevent students from having to see several different advisors or advising services before getting the help they need

Improve the classroom environment

An inclusive classroom environment is essential for all students and will be a primary goal of the Putnam administration. The classroom should be a place of learning, where students are willing to listen to others' perspectives and where students can be comfortable with sharing their own.

- Conduct surveys of the student body to determine inclusivity issues in classroom environments
- Work with faculty council and various student organizations to determine feasible solutions to issues that arise from these surveys
- Integrate better inclusivity feedback into course evaluations so that professors can gauge student reaction to new policies and solutions

Work on a Textbook Affordability Pledge to lower costs of required course materials for students

While UNC prides itself on being ranked well on lists of schools that are a good value, one area where this falls short is the costs of required course materials. The College Board sets the national average for the cost of required course materials at \$1250 per year while internal research done by UNC found our costs to be closer to \$1600 per year for each student.

- Meet personally with professors and discuss their textbook and course material requirements
- Encourage professors sign a pledge to reduce the costs of their required course materials and provide these professors with resources to help lower their material costs
- Strengthen the use of open educational resources through grant funding for professors who use or develop these resources
- Collaborate between UNC library services and departments to have online textbooks available to download from the UNC library

Give students access to official course feedback and reform course evaluations to better encompass student concerns

Before selecting courses, students often rely on third party websites that may have unreliable or biased information on professors and courses. To give students more information about prospective courses we would work to give students access to official course feedback, likely through course evaluations, in ConnectCarolina. In addition, course evaluations can feel irrelevant to students, so providing access and reforming course evaluations would make them more valuable to students, incentivize them to fill out more evaluations, and increase transparency.

- Design and execute a survey of students to determine the information that they would most like to know about courses before registration
- Work with Faculty Council, the administration, and UNC ITS to implement course evaluations or official course feedback into ConnectCarolina in accordance with the student survey results
- Help to design a user-friendly and accessible interface that integrates into ConnectCarolina for students to reference during registration
- Continue to monitor student and faculty feedback to ensure that greater access to feedback is valuable to professors and students

Compile campus resources into an accessible guide for students

While UNC has many incredible resources for almost any situation, it can often be hard to keep track of exactly what resources are available. Academic Affairs will help to compile as many resources as possible into an easily accessible and searchable format.

- Research other universities and institutions for precedent on how to accomplish and the build a compilation of on-campus resources
- Reach out to different organizations on campus for assistance in understanding and cataloging resources
- Build and publicize the final compilation of resources and use student feedback to

First Year Experience

The adjustment from high school to college is always hard, however Carolina in particular is notorious for its relatively high attrition rate among first year students. Some typical complaints from first year students involve not being able to engage socially and struggling with course registration and with academic advising. To alleviate these concerns the Putnam administration would help reform support systems for first year students.

- Work with Academic Advising to reform orientation advising to better help students find the courses they need before the semester begins
- This would seek to alleviate the stress that many students face at the beginning of the fall semester, one of the most vulnerable times for first year students, as they settle into their schedules
- Work with different organizations on campus such as Carolina Housing, to help put on effective social events for first year students to help first year students meet more students on campus
- Help to develop a cohort system which would group a number of first year students based on mutual interests with the future potential for cohorts of students to take classes like English 105 together

Re-examine and improve classroom and study spaces

As a reach goal, the Putnam administration would like to improve outdated and ineffective classroom spaces, especially old lecture halls, and study areas. Students often complain of small or damaged desks in lecture halls and a lack of meeting spaces and social spaces. The administration is interested in developing better classrooms like in Greenlaw 101, and Academic Affairs would like to serve as a student voice in these investments in the future of Carolina's learning and social spaces.

- Survey students to compile evidence of widespread complaints about classroom and social spaces and present findings to administration
- Reach out to the administration to understand the intent behind investments that have already been made, such as Greenlaw 101
- Serve as a student voice in future investments in classrooms and student social spaces

Environmental Affairs

Our vision

UNC is in need of a comprehensive environmental education program to brief both students and faculty on the existing sustainability efforts on campus. If the campus population does not understand the implications of being environmentally-conscious, current endeavors will not achieve their full potential. This administration will work to improve environmental education programs and sustainability efforts on campus.

Improve Education of Environmental Resources on Campus

Environmental changes all start with proper education across campus. Students, faculty, and employees must gain a better understanding of how they can better our planet and live a greener, more sustainable, life.

- Begin working on a stronger environmental curriculum for first years
- Include an environmental discussion at orientation stating the University's goals and how students can be more environmentally friendly on campus
- Create an online module for students to complete before arriving on campus in order to understand the University's goals and how exactly new students can help the University achieve those goals
- Education past the first year
- In order to ensure that students do not forget about the importance of staying green while on campus, information about how to stay green will be included in the bathrooms, dorms, and dining halls. Information provided in the bathrooms will serve the purpose of informing students on how much water the dual-flush toilets installed in most of the buildings save. Additionally, in bathrooms signs will be provided to encourage students to use less paper towels while drying hands. Information in the dorm bathrooms will encourage students to take shorter showers or to turn of the lights whenever possible. Finally, information in the dining halls will remind students to cut back on food waste or how to compost food in their own apartments
- Environmental Information Sessions, on a monthly basis, would serve the purpose of educating members of our community on current environmental issues, how our University is addressing them, and what students can do to help
- Create a new module for First Years that describes environmental resources on campus and how students can be more environmentally friendly on campus

Make Greek life meet a set Environmental Standard

Greek life is a prevalent community on campus and enforcing greater environmental standards will have a large impact on decreasing waste in the Chapel Hill community.

- Implementation of recycling bins in all Fraternity and Sorority houses
- Educate members on environmentally friendly habits
- Collaborate with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Community Involvement as well as the IFC and Panhellenic Council Executive Boards to facilitate composting in fraternity and sorority houses
- Work with the governing councils of each Greek organization to place signs around the house to constantly encourage environmentally friendly habits and activities

Make UNC 100% Renewable by 2030

Creating long-term Environmental goals our University can serve as an example to other Universities and communities.

- Making UNC 100% renewable by 2030 is an extremely important goal that the University needs to accomplish with the ultimate goal of combating climate change
- Set a long term goal for electric buses. Switching the buses from gasoline to electric with further emphasize and aid the University in reaching the completely renewable goal by 2030

Work to improve UNC's public transportation routes and safety

Public transportation has enormous potential to reduce overall carbon emissions.

Currently some of the public transportation routes do not include crosswalks for students to safely reach their apartments or homes. The students and members of the Chapel Hill community are of the highest priority to this administration, and therefore working to improve the current public transportation routes is a high priority.

- Advocate for repainted/more accessible crosswalks on all parts of campus
- Use Student Government's political voice to advocate for community leaders

Increase awareness for the UNC bike to bike program

The current Bike to Bike program has been extremely successful so far and this administration hopes to see the program continue to evolve and expand.

- Educate students further about how they're helping the environment
- Create a message service that will thank students for choosing a eco-friendly method of transportation
- Gather student feedback and improve the program
- Determine the feasibility of a helmet program

Increasing student's availability to fresh food

Creating a situation in which students have greater accessibility to fresh food will improve the health of students and reduce waste, as well as teach students the importance of lifelong sustainable living.

- Fresh and healthy food is not available on certain days or after certain hours on campus. The administration will strive to work with environmentally groups and edible campus in order to increase student's access to fresh foods
- Examine how and where Carolina Dining Services receives food
- Create action steps within Environmental Affairs committee

Increase recycling and compost resources and availability

The campus dining halls do an incredible job of managing food waste. However, there is a lack of recycling and compost bins. By placing recycling and composting bins at other food locations around campus, working with student organizations on how to best use the compost, and increase composting knowledge the amount of total waste could be reducing tremendously.

- Provide recycling and composting bins at all locations.
- Partnering with environmentally conscious student groups to make sure that all compost is being used properly
- Use compost for edible campus project and for community gardens around the area
- increase the awareness of composting resources
- Create a composting guide that outlines what is acceptable to compost. Distribute guide to all residence halls and make available on university website

Student Programming and Outreach

Our vision

The administration believes that proper student programming is integral to the Carolina experience. Additionally, outreach to the student body is imperative to ensure that Student Government is creating programming that reflects the student body as all. With this in mind, the following policies will be put in place in order to ensure that Student Government better parallels the needs of the student body. All students are affected by the decisions made by Student Government, but do not know what decisions are made and what positive change they will incur because of the decisions made. The following policies have been created to improve student programming and outreach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Increasing Transparency & Visibility

Student Government controls what happens on campus. Students should be able to know what their government is doing at all times. It is important for student government to become responsive to students and reflect the needs of those students.

- Creation of a one-sheet that is sent out on a weekly basis outlining what advances student government has made
- Accessibility of the Executive Branch. Holding “office hours” and opening up the suite in the union to foster and “open-door” policy
- Found a monthly meeting between all student organization presidents, anyone welcome to attend, in order to create student led vision of long-term goals for school with the burning question: how can we better Carolina?
- Emphasis on monthly General Body meetings. The meetings will be open to the public and highly publicized. At each meeting committees will clearly communicate their goals and current projects
- Create more cross student government contact between committees in order to foster cohesion and a sense of community

Test new feedback mechanisms and outreach strategies for student government in order to gauge perceived effectiveness with connecting students.

Student government needs to reposition itself as the “middle institution” between students and local, state, and federal government. Aside from being a very visible and approachable president on campus, this administration will make sure this repositioning occurs in two structured ways:

- Conduct research on how student government can better fulfill its role
- Research student and faculty attitudes towards student government and its perceived effectiveness in connecting students to opportunities to vote, engage in political issues, and make the changes they want to on Carolina’s campus
- On this survey, ask targeted questions about how student government can improve: what additional resources can it provide to students for engagement, what is it doing that it should not be doing, what voice should student government have in UNC politics
- Schedule 1-on-1 meetings with all campus organization leaders for the first semester of presidency. The purpose of these meetings will to learn how student government can better serve their organization’s needs and how the Putnam administration can further their goals to collectively make Carolina a better place
- Monthly pit sits to get direct student feedback
- Educate the student body on the role that student government serves
- Offer weekly student government suite tours with added incentives to foster curiosity for this space
- Create a “10 Ways YOU Can Utilize Student Government” video to be shared on social media
- Provide greater resources to marketing sectors of administration to publicize events

Multicultural and Diversity Outreach

Our vision

Carolina is rich with neighbors of different languages, race, ethnicities, religion, spiritualities, sexualities, gender identities, ideologies, experiences and cultures. This administration's number one job is to guarantee that all students are living happy lives here in Chapel Hill. While we have made progress in celebrating our diversity rather than letting our differences divide us, there is always ample room to make this campus a more inclusive space. This administration is determined to support underrepresented groups in fighting for equitable resources, including necessary on-campus spaces, so that they can flourish. Additionally, this administration plans on educating the entire student body on timely issues that may not affect them directly but could affect someone who is sitting next to them in class. The hope is to foster a Carolina culture that embraces difference rather than letting it be a barrier to our friendly community.

Begin allocation of funds for a Latinx space on campus

The Latinx community at UNC is strong, vibrant, and growing. Making up also 8% of the student population, it is salient that they have the resources for a space large enough to gather as one. This administration is committed to its existence, holding the UNC administration accountable to their promises on the matter, and acknowledges the need of an accessible location.

- Hold Chancellor Folt accountable in regards to funding a Latinx space
- Create a safe-space for the Latinx community on campus
- Work with CHispA, among other student organizations, to determine needs for space
- Vocalize solidarity with Dreamers on behalf of Student Government

Require implicit bias trainings for faculty, staff, and students

Implicit bias is something that everyone has and yet not many are aware of. However, once made conscious of this bias and trained on how to actively think without it, individuals are much more cognizant of the way they evaluate either students or friends. Implicit bias training has been implemented within a multitude of student organizations who undergo some sort of selection process and has proven tremendous success. Requiring professors to receive such training would help standardize their grading in regards differences they may have with students' opinions, race, religion, or political view. Additionally, developing a student body that is more aware of implicit bias is one step in creating a more harmonious and inclusive campus.

- AlcoholEDU style required course for incoming/returning faculty, staff, and students
- Partner with Computer Science department, as well as the Media and Journalism School to create this training
- Have the training function similarly to MyHaven and AlcoholEDU, those who fail to complete the training, will have an academic hold placed on their account

Increase accessibility for handicapped students

UNC facilities are tailored to able-bodied students and indirectly excludes handicapped students. In order to make this campus and more inclusive one for all students, there needs to be a focus on both expanding awareness of the lack of handicapped facilities as well as bringing attention to accessible facilities on campus, including all building ramps and dining hall tables.

- Identify wheelchair-accessible tables by placing stickers on all relevant tables in all dining halls
- Create campus map with all the handicapped places on campus
- Advocate for a greater focus on physical accessibility on campus

Instate a diversity council

Diversity is one of the highest priorities of this administration. The mission is to have all voices are heard, a diversity council will ensure that those experiences are reflected in this administration.

- Create Council comprised of the presidents and leaders of each ethnically (religiously, etc) representative student organization
- Utilize the Diversity Council to host a Diversity in Action day with student workshops and programming.
- Charge the Diversity Council with holding events surrounding specific cultures, such as international dance workshops, world or international food days, etc.
- Host a panel through the Diversity Council to discuss differences in culture that relate to the Carolina campus

Support for African American Community

This administration is focused on improving the experience of every student on campus and is well aware of the issues faced by UNC's black and African American students. In addition to concrete steps addressing minority male retention and the unique experience of black women on campus, this administration will push for the University's public acknowledgement of its racially troubling past and pressure the Carolina Administration to level the playing ground for all students in the future.

- Advocate for the relocation of Silent Sam off campus alongside a historically appropriate contextualization
- Stand with BSM to create educational events surrounding the African American student experience
- Create a multicultural fair to celebrate all different race/religions/cultures etc.
- Invite leaders from international communities to speak at Student Government events
- Establish Greek Unity Council alongside NPHC, Panhel, IFC, GAC, and all other greek affiliated organization
- Promote Men of Color Program and find points of collaboration to increase retention of African American males at Carolina

More inclusive classrooms and campus for LGBTQIA+ students

Diversity within UNC includes gender and sexuality, the campus should be representative of those students.

- Advocate for professors to provide students the ability to convey the gender pronoun with which they identify, in conjunction with Academic Affairs
- Advocate for every building have a gender neutral bathroom
- Work with Student Safety and Wellness Committee to create a guide on the difference between being a promformative ally and an actual ally

Promote Multicultural awareness

Creating multicultural awareness is imperative to fostering a sense of community among Carolina students.

- Partner with student groups and have them host projects in conjunction with MADO to create awareness
- Partner with Greek Alliance Council to promote individual chapters' cultural events
- Have greek organizations partner and host events outside of their respective council with another greek organization
- Create an event showing the documentary 13th, along with raising awareness about the criminal justice system

Increase religious tolerance on campus

This administration will work towards making UNC a campus in which all religions are accepted and have a space

- Increase awareness surrounding anti-semitism and outline what it looks like in modern day.
- Support a space designated for the Muslim Student Association.
- Provide transportational resources for the all students to attend local religious services
- Collaborate with Our Three Winners Foundation to help publicize and support the Foundation's programs, including their Run for Razan campaign, Project Refugee Smiles, and their #LoveThyNeighbor campaign.
- Collaborate with Carolina Roundtable to bring prominent members of different religious groups to campus
- Work with TEDx to bring speakers from different religions to campus
- Partner with religious affiliated student organizations in an effort to bring awareness to issues specific student populations are facing



**Thank you for taking the time
to read through our platform.**

This is a *living* document.

**We'd love to hear from
you so that we can
make this policy as
comprehensive as it
can be.**

**Please visit our website and contact
us with any ideas you may have.**