

CAMPUS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
April 7, 2021

The Campus Safety Commission met on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing. Co-Chair Frank Baumgartner and Co-Chair DeVetta Holman-Copeland convened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: DeVetta Holman-Copeland, Frank Baumgartner, Jim Herrington, Branny Vickory, Charles Streeter, OJ McGhee, Latesha Harris, Josh Romero, Kim Strom, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz, Chris McClure (Chancellor's Office), Emily Blackburn (Chancellor's Office), Leslie Kreizman (ITS), Kate Maroney (Media Relations), Chief David Perry (UNCPD)

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Branny Vickory and a second by Latesha Harris, the minutes of the March 3 General Body Meeting were approved.

[A copy of these minutes is located at csc.unc.edu]

CHANCELLOR KEVIN M. GUSKIEWICZ REMARKS TO COMMISSION

Chancellor Guskiewicz thanked the Commission for their work on the critical importance of keeping the University safe. Guskiewicz expressed excitement to attend the April 28 Campus Safety Commission webinar hosted in partnership with the School of Social Work, University Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Athletics.

Guskiewicz provided the Commission with a series of updates related to the progress of the University during the COVID-19 pandemic. 142,000 tests have been conducted within the University with an overall positivity rate of .31 percent. The positivity rate for symptomatic testing has remained below 1 percent all semester. The quarantine and isolation dorm numbers have remained low all semester, with these dorms have no residents at one point. At the time of this meeting, we have not had a cluster notification in two months since February 4. Our frontline workers and essential workers on campus have worked tirelessly to protect us from this virus, and students have followed the COVID-19 Community Standards with few reports of violations.

We are moving quickly to ensure that our community is vaccinated with over 1100 students vaccinated at the student clinic last week. The success of our work was made possible by everyone coming together to solve problems, and that is our strength at Carolina. Our testing program has been an incredible example of what our brilliant faculty can do: Dr. Amir Barzin and his team built this from the ground up. They collaborated with Dr. Stephen King in the HallPass web app – this is our culture of low stone walls in action.

Guskiewicz expressed gratitude to the student volunteers, healthcare workers, students who have complied with our testing program, and everyone who has followed the COVID-19 Community Standards to ensure that this semester could be a success. We have learned important lessons about ourselves and what we can accomplish, and we can confidently say that our layered approach has worked. We kept cases low, limited the spread of the virus, and allowed our campus to focus on our mission of teaching, research and service. And we did it all because our entire campus worked together.

From the success of this semester, we are planning for the fall based on what we are hearing from our experts: cautiously optimistic. We anticipate in-person classroom teaching with safety measures likely still in place. Right now, we're in a complicated time on our campus: we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we're not at the end of the tunnel yet. Guskiewicz expressed his confidence that we will be able to get there. We are operating with a great deal of uncertainty with the virus and the variants right now, and Guskiewicz acknowledged that it can be challenging for our campus to operate and plan within that uncertainty. Guskiewicz promised to share information with you as soon as we can, and that we will offer flexibility when possible

Guskiewicz shared that he is looking forward to Spring Commencement with the amazing speakers Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett and Dr. Anthony Fauci. Each spring commencement ceremony has around 1000 students and we are at capacity for guest with around 4000 guests for each. We are also moving forward on the naming process of our buildings. We've had over 1100 individual submissions to the registry, about 234 of those are viable names for consideration and the registry closes on April 9.

Guskiewicz noted that he believes that Carolina is emerging stronger from the pandemic: research numbers are high, enrollment is up, and our campaign is strong. However, we have to position ourselves in the right place, with Guskiewicz recalling a Wayne Gretzky quote: "I skate to where the puck is going to be." We must think ahead: how do we respond to the demands of our students? How do we equip our community with the skills they need? How do we ensure that our community knows they are safe amid uncertainty? Guskiewicz welcomed the Commission to share their ideas in the discussion today and opened the floor for question.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

The below members of the public came forward during the Campus Safety Commission open comment period. The members listed below are from two different cohorts: Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program and graduate students from the Sister Talk organization. Their remarks related to the mental and psychological safety of marginalized students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Commission thanks these individuals for bravely sharing their experiences in a public forum and commends the work of Dr. DeVetta Holman-Copeland

for supporting the mental health, safety and success of marginalized students on the UNC-CH campus.

- Danyelle Smith
- Nia Nelson
- Reem Hakeem
- Zayna King
- Gwendolyn Love
- Karly Smith
- Jesalyn Keziah

APRIL 2021 CAMPUS SAFETY COMMISSION EVENT

Co-Chair DeVetta Holman-Copeland reminded the Commission that on April 28, 2021, the Campus Safety Commission will host an event on Emotional and Psychological Safety in partnership with UNC Athletics, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the UNC School of Social Work. The event is titled “Head Space, Heart Space: Straight Talk About Navigating Race, Place and Complex Space”. The virtual event will highlight speaker [Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas](#), whose work explores the intersections between identity, community space (e.g. athletics, barbershops, churches and neighborhoods) and the social and cultural foundations of leadership, sport, and education.

The Co-Chairs extended thanks to our campus partners, Cloe Lipriani, Dr. Travis Albritton, and Dwight Hollier who will be supporting this event through their respective departments. More information is available on csc.unc.edu.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Co-Chair Baumgartner called for a motion to adjourn. Branny Vickory made the motion; Kim Strom seconded, and it passed. Co-Chair Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.