Call to Order
Chair Burney called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Chair Burney welcomed the new members and said they were the best committee in Congress.

Attendance
The following members were present: Jocelyn Burney (Chair), Joseph Strader (Vice Chair), Kristen Dolan, Zach Ferguson, Stephanie Mellini, Braxton Reyna, Jonathan Stupak, and Max Williams.

The following members were absent: Nitin Goel and Kim Niver.

The following members were late: Kizzmekia Corbett.

The following persons were also present: Paige Comparato (Speaker).

Chair Burney said that she was glad the new members were here. She explained more about the committee and said that they seek out problems and try to fix them. She said they deal closely with a variety of committees and appointments that the speaker and the student body president have made. She said they maintain a line of communication with appointments made by the speaker. She said they are now meeting up with external appointments and getting a good idea of what is going on with these boards.

New Business

Speaker’s Appointments to RESPC

Chair Burney said that the appointments were in a meeting now and that they would come at the end.

Speaker’s Appointments to STV Board of Directors

Kelsey Noonan said that she was on the board of directors and that she has served as station manager and business manager previously for STV. She said she graduated in May and is now in the MAC program at the business school. She said that they have had one board meeting where they have set up the board of directors for the year and voted for a new director of the board, who was a station manager in
the past. She thought that was a great decision because he was very involved and has worked with the Union and student government. She said they did some approvals for appointments and that STV is one of the largest funded programs from student fees. She said they have mainly been dealing with losing space in the bottom of the Union. She said her only encouragement was to use STV as a resource because it is often overlooked. She said that student government should use it as an outlet and take advantage of the talk shows and use it to get the word out about student government.

Chair Burney asked about the reallocated space for STV in the Union.

Ms. Noonan said that it was controversial within STV because there was lots of ambiguity when they were fixing up the new studio. She said there was nothing written in the contract. She said it normally wouldn’t have been an issue but that STV put in about $40,000 from student fees into making the space suitable and then it was cut it half. She said they were happy to have a space and prime location on campus but that they still working with issues with ITS.

Representative Dolan said that the funding for the space had to change in order to continue operating and asked if money was needed.

Ms. Noonan said that they could reallocate that money but that she didn’t know the specific amount. She said there was a loss that they had invested in, especially in the wire services because that was something they couldn’t get money back from. She said communication was the key takeaway. She said they are continuing to work with the Union. She said a contract should have been put in place at the beginning and that it was a lesson for any student organization to learn.

Chair Burney asked if there would be a contract now with the Union.

Ms. Noonan said that she was not sure and that she would check up on that. She said that the Union was being cooperative and that they learned their lesson.

Discussion

Chair Burney asked Christy Lambden if he wanted to talk about SFAC.

Mr. Lambden said that he was in the 93rd session of Congress. He said he currently sits on SFAC and the UNC ASG delegation. He said he likes to rant about things at Carolina. He said the transit fee sticks out in his mind. He said it was a $23 fee increase followed by $14 increases for years to come in order to upkeep current services. He said his point of view was that they should not allow such huge increases. He said it was his opinion that parking needs to continue subsidizing for transit. He said that DPS argued that students should pay more because they are 80% of the ridership but that they only have 5% of the parking on campus and there is nothing they can do about it. He said it seems like a bizarre dichotomy. He said
the Union came with a $5 increase but that they recommended a $3 increase so they don’t have 3 full time positions but 2 full time positions and a graduate assistant. He said he doesn’t know if everyone knows the fee process.

Chair Burney said that Mr. Lambden was the student body president’s appointment to SFAC and that they hear appointments to get the position but only review the appointments made by the speaker. She said that Representative Stupak talked about the fees in the last meeting.

Representative Stupak asked Mr. Lambden his thoughts on the E&T fee.

Mr. Lambden said it was the biggest fee.

Chair Burney asked what it pays for.

Mr. Lambden said everything electronic and for electronic upkeep. He said it was a huge fee and that it hasn’t been audited in a while. He said they might audit it in the spring. He said that they want to raise the fee because students use the Internet for personal use. He said they determine the fee increase by polling different organizations. He said that wasn’t an accurate representation. He said that SFAC also saw considerable professional school fee increases. He said they voted unanimously against all the big fees and said that the transit fee was unanimously voted for in SFAS.

Speaker Comparato said the Greek fee was approved in SFAS also.

Mr. Lambden said the Greeks wanted the fee so they got the fee.

**Submissions to Petition Page**

Chair Burney said that the petition page was a good project that could allow students to anonymously submit questions and concerns on the Congress website. She said they were working to make it more fancy. She said she would give everyone access to see what people wrote when she figured it out. She said that they have gotten 10 or 15 things but most of them were jokes or weird. She said they got one legitimate idea, which would be to have more Wi-Fi access in the SRC. She asked if anyone wanted to send an email to the SRC and said she would do it if no one wanted to.

Representative Mellini said she would do it.

Chair Burney said just to ask them what they thought about that idea.

Speaker Comparato asked what the joke ones were.
Chair Burney said they were people asking if Congress could get them a job after graduation or get them parking on campus. She said it was stuff not worth their consideration.

**Gender Non-Specific Housing**

Chair Burney said that her and Chair Crayton had a meeting with people from the campus Y last week. She said that student power was the coming together of many organizations to use all their resources. She said organizations used to protest stuff separately in the past. She said their biggest thing was to push through gender non-specific housing. She said that it was an issue that was started last year by a sophomore named Kevin. She said his concern were the folks in the LBGT community. She said dorms are the fourth most common place for harassment, especially for freshman who end up with a roommate who is of the same sex but who they are not comfortable with. She said they could bully them and not accept them for who they are. She said they pushed it as an option, not something that would be mandatory. She said it wouldn't be one specific dorm that would isolate them. She said safety was the real force behind the whole push and that the 93rd Congress passed a concurrent resolution for it. She asked Speaker Comparato if she had the original bill.

Speaker Comparato said that it should be in their old email inbox.

Chair Burney said that she looked through her email before and that this was a scan. She said they passed it with a lot of supporters. She said there was a petition that over 800 people signed in favor of it and 200 people said they would participate in it. She said that it did not get implemented because Chancellor Thorp said that the stakeholders off campus weren't educated about it. He said they were more conservative and older donors that might have misunderstood it. She said that they had to be careful with that because it could offend them and they would lose their support for the university. She said that student power said they could push this through this year since Thorp was on his way out.

Representative Corbett asked if there were gender specific buildings now.

Chair Burney said that some were all boys, all girls, and some were just gender by hall. She said that freshman have to live on campus their first year and that people can move off campus if they're not a freshman. She said the people at the Y said the best way to help them was to host public forums or meetings.

Speaker Comparato said they could have a public hearing if they were doing a resolution on it.

Chair Burney said that if they were to put forth another concurrent resolution dealing with this, they could have a public hearing and get students to come so they
could get more educated and awareness about it. She said that some people thought it would be just an easier way for couples to live together.

Representative Corbett said it could be.

Chair Burney said yes but that it would be a well monitored system that would be in conjunction with the LGBT center. She said that people couldn't walk into it easily. She said they do it at Duke and that if there were a room disagreement, it would be handled the same way. Chair Burney asked anyone had any opinions and said she personally felt strongly about passing it.

Speaker Comparato said that members don’t have to necessarily agree with this but they could just talk about it.

Chair Burney said that the campus Y wanted to bring this up and that it would be good to continue the conversation. She said she doesn’t have any concrete ideas.

Representative Corbett said she went to undergrad in Maryland and that they did this and that the biggest problem was that there wasn’t a mechanism to filter couples. She said they were all campus apartments so it was different.

Vice Chair Strader said this was problematic because it would make someone identify as a homosexual to participate.

Chair Burney said it would be open to everybody.

Vice Chair Strader said it would turn into couples living together. He said that it was hard to deal with people that don’t know each other in dorms and that he couldn’t imagine having to deal with couples.

Chair Burney said that they feel passionate about it in student power.

Representative Stupak said they talked about this in ASG and that they supported it more generally with less focus on the specifics. He said they would be better off on focusing on basic support as opposed to the specific plan.

Mr. Lambden said that Kevin went to ASG and that there was a bit of backlash against him. He said that it wasn’t right for every university in the system. He said they should approach and say that UNC-Chapel Hill students want this. He said it would not be passed in ASG.

Representative Stupak said they should come up with a proposal that is more idea based.

Mr. Lambden said that this committee was not the place to hammer out the details but just speak for the students.
Chair Burney said they would keep talking about it and that she would ask the people from the campus Y to come in and talk about it in the next meeting. She asked if anyone had any questions about the committee.

Representative Corbett asked what the appropriate way was to publicize the petition page.

Chair Burney said that she was planning on writing a letter to the editor to tell people about it. She said that she would send a draft around. She said they were all free to put it on a listserv or on twitter. She said they weren’t limited and that they could email the big name advocacy groups.

Speaker Comparato said that if representatives lived on campus, they could send it to their community director so they could send it out in their weekly newsletter.

Chair Burney said they should go to tinyurl.com/congresspetition.

Speaker Comparato said they could share it on their Facebook page and could post it on the class Facebook groups.

Chair Burney said they could be creative about it. She said she would send out the letter.

Speaker Comparato asked if there were bulletin boards in the law school.

Vice Chair Strader said there was a free expression board.

Speaker Comparato said they could put it on the political science listserv or the public policy listserv.

Vice Chair Strader asked about the Union board of director’s appointment.

Speaker Comparato said that she had an applicant that was very good. She said they did an interview but that he was contacted by a member of Congress and withdrew his application because he did not want to do it anymore after that. She said she had written the bill already too. She said that she was interviewing someone else. She said it was hard that they won’t have an appointment until the last meeting and that application was still open.

RESPC

Doug Stiegler spoke for RESPC. He said he was on the special projects committee. He said they have funded one lighting project to convert lights to LED lighting. He said they choose to do that over the dean dome project. He said there was a working group committee with DPS and other organizations. He said in their
meeting today they talked about two projects involving solar panels and tables where people could charge devices. He said it could be a visible project in the pit or something like that.

Representative Stupak asked if they did any evaluation of things they previously funded.

Mr. Stiegler said that they do.

Chair Burney said they are good with making sure there is pay back on all the projects.

Representative Ferguson said he had more of a suggestion. He asked if students could see where the money was going on the website.

Mr. Stiegler said they were thinking about redesigning their website so that could be something to look at.

Chair Burney said that her dorm goes through paper towels very fast and asked if he could bring that up to the committee about compost.

Mr. Stiegler said that might be out of the scope of RESPC. He said they were more focused toward energy and efficiency but that he would bring it up.

**Announcements**
There were no announcements.

**Adjournment (Acclamation)**
There was a motion to adjourn.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Chair Burney adjourned the meeting at 6:48 PM.