Call to Order

Speaker De La Rosa called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Attendance

For a list of members present check the attendance and voting record.

Oath of Office

All of the members of the 94th Student Congress who were not present at inauguration stood and took the oath of office.

Election of the Ethics Committee Chair

Speaker De La Rosa gave instructions that each member is to turn in a handwritten ballot for each position.

Brady nominated Representative Woodward for Ethics Committee Chair. Woodward accepted.

Woodward introduced himself. He is a graduate student from district 10. He said when serving in the 93rd Congress he worked with Lisa Heimbach, the previous Ethics Committee Chair on new ideas for the position. He said that he thinks that it is a good idea for the Ethics Chair to be a graduate student.

Brady moved to elect Woodward by acclamation. Election by acclamation was not allowed.

Brady moved to close the floor.

Chris Woodward was elected Ethics Committee Chair by 35 votes.

Election of the Speaker
Best nominated Representative Brady.

Simmons nominated Representative Comparato.

Burney moved to close the floor.

Comparato introduced herself saying that she is a sophomore who has served as a vice-chair and chair of the Rules and Judiciary Committee in the past. She said that she has ideas and visions for the upcoming congress, but she is interested in others’ views as well. She said that her objectives are to add to cohesiveness and improve communication among other things. She said that her style as a leader will allow a free flow of information and opinions that will be valued. She said that she will always be approachable and helpful as a speaker.

Brady introduced himself saying he thinks that he is prepared for this position even though he has only been in Congress for two months. He said he was inaugurated on January 27th and submitted three bills on January 28th. He said that he wants to improve transparency. The Congress needs to keep up with NC State, and he wants to create something similar to the bill tracker that their Congress is using. He wants to improve communication between committees and committee chairs, and he wants to improve communication with the executive and judicial branches. He said he wants to do more to improve the student code. He also said that he will be open to ideas from each member of Congress even if he does not agree.

Speaker De La Rosa opened the floor for queries.

Dunnagan asked what experience the two candidates have to run on.

Comparator said that has been vice chair of the Rules and Judiciary Committee, and she has experience presiding over committees. She has contacts across campus and experience in other organizations as well.
Brady said that although he has only been in Congress for two months, but he has more experience elsewhere. He has served on Safety and Security and in housing and he knows how to be impartial. He said he knows how the code works from his experience as clerk. He said he was a co-author of the code in a way by working as the clerk. He served on the board of elections as a freshman.

Burney asked how the candidates think they can change ASG and what their experience is with ASG.

Brady said that one of the ways he will help ASG meet quorum is by attending as the Speaker. He said that he believes that UNC should be an example by attending. He said that his experience is limited, but he does want to go and work to improve it.

Comparato said that she also knows the workings of ASG, and to improve the attendance she would take a similar approach to her high school’s approach for their ASG. She would go in with a new approach, and she says that she thinks that ASG needs to recognize that there is a problem. She said that she will work to keep in contact with the other delegates from other schools.

Goel asked how they will increase communication with committees but with efficiency.

Comparato said that once a week after meetings, all of the chairs should get together and have a separate meeting to update each other. She said that this will help communication with all of Congress as well.

Brady said that he will use his planned “trickle-down” effect. He wants to have a chair’s report at meetings and not just at the meetings of full congress. He said that the new changes will make the Oversight and Advocacy Committee more closely connected to the Rules and Judiciary and Finance Committees. He said that communication will be a key to this Congress.
Representative Simmons asked each candidate to sum himself or herself up in one word.

Brady said proactive.

Comparato said approachable.

Burney asked the candidates to name their top three accomplishments while in Congress and allowed Brady to include his time as clerk because he has only been a member of Congress for two months.

Comparato said that her top three accomplishments were her redistricting bill, her communication with students through the Rules and Judiciary Committee Twitter and her ability to bring students outside of Congress to meetings, and she said that she was proud of everything her committee has done.

Brady said his top three things include co-authoring every part of the student code while he was clerk, the fact that he was able to gain the trust of the voters of District One, and the fact that he had three bills on his first day of Congress and during his three months of congress he had cosponsored 15 bills that passed.

Hardeman asked what one or two things each candidate is passionate about outside of congress.

Brady said that he is passionate about students and residents and contributing to their ability to come in and find someone to live with who is different from them but still be cohesive. He said that he is passionate about making all students feel welcome. Brady also said that he is passionate about making sure that it is known what his opinions are. He said that he will not let his opinion get in the way as speaker, but he is also passionate about people sharing their ideas.

Comparato said that she is passionate about connecting with people. She joined Student Congress to help people connect to each other. She said that she likes to keep connections with anyone that she meets and she works to keep up connections with her friend group. She said that
she is passionate about meeting new people and learning from other people. She said that she is also passionate about sports, and she admires athletes and their dedication.

Milder asked what the most important thing they think Student Congress does is besides allocating fees and what they disagree with him specifically about.

Comparato said that she thinks advocacy is most important, and Student Congress could improve that by gathering feedback in the Pit for example. Comparator said that she disagrees that she disagrees with Milder.

Brady said that he disagrees with Milder about ASG and the ways they want to channel the great ideas for ASG. Brady said that he agrees with Comparato that advocacy is the most important because students don’t know that Congress is here for them. He said that he agrees with office hours in the Pit.

Crayton asked if each candidate could reflect on one thing that he or she did not do well in Congress.

Brady said that he became heated in a debate about the referendum for ASG, but a good thing about that is that he will never insert his opinion when leading a meeting as speaker. He said the position of speaker is a calm one, and he can listen to everyone. He said that he regrets that he was that fired up in his first meeting, but he will not make anything personal in Congress again.

Comparato said that she would regret not speaking up as much as she could have in Student Congress. She said that during debate she would often observe debate and watch how everyone else was reacting and try to make sure that both sides were being heard. She said that she did not want to risk offending anyone intentionally or unintentionally. She said that this could help her in the role of speaker because she is very moderate. She said that she would never lash out at another member of Congress.
Morse asked if Brady’s position on the Daily Tar Heel’s Board of Directors would be a conflict for him.

He said it would be, and he would step down from that position.

Simmons motioned to limit debate to two minute answers. He also asked the candidates’ opinions on stipends.

Comparato said that she thinks stipends should be reduced, and that should be examined in the next Congress.

Brady said that he does not support stipends. He noted that he did not support the clerk’s stipend and had the salary reduced to minimum wage. He said that it is important to note that it is not personal, but he does not support them. He said that he does, however, support a summer stipend for those who have to stay at school during the summer.

Simmons motioned to close the debate.

Consent was called.

**Election of the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Finance Committee Chair, the Rules & Judiciary Chair, and the Oversight Chair, in that order**

**Election of the Speaker Pro Tempore**

McClelland nominated Brady for Speaker Pro Tempore. He accepted.

Simmons asked what Brady would do with the unique position of sitting on all committees as an ex-officio member and what for committee he would be most interested in attending meetings. He said that he is most interested in attending Oversight and Advocacy every other week.

Morse moved to close the floor.

Brady was elected by a vote of secret ballot.

**Election of the Finance Committee Chair**
Brady nominated Best for the position of finance chair.

Simmons was nominate, but he declined.

Simmons nominated Austin Root.

Root said that he is very interested in finance and wants a position in corporate finance one day. He said that there are not a lot of returning members and he thinks that he will be able to do the position anyway.

Best said that she is one of the two returning members of the finance committee. She wants to make applying for funding easier, possibly by starting weekend workshops for groups to learn the process. She said that she is also open to learning from others.

Brady asked if he is allowed to ask a question of the nominator, but the Parliamentarian said it is not allowed. Brady rephrased the question to ask the candidates why they think their nominator chose them.

Root said that he has been talking with Simmons about his interest in the position.

Best said that she believes she was nominated because she is the most senior returning member of the committee.

Crayton asked if the candidates have worked with the new Student Body Treasurer, Shrija Ghosh. Best said that she has worked with Ghosh in the past on Finance committee.

Root says he does not know Ghosh, but he has heard nothing but positive things about her. He said that what he lacks in experience he can make up for with character traits.

Simmons asked if the candidates think the student activities fee should be raised, lowered, or unchanged.

Root said that he thinks it should be maintained during these tough economic times.
Best said that she thinks it is at least important to maintain the fee, but she thinks that the fees should be viewed separately.

Burney yielded her time to the Parliamentarian who asked them to address their knowledge of Title V.

Best said that she took the treasurer’s test again this afternoon and she made a 103. She said that she holds herself to a higher knowledge to make sure that she has read Title V thoroughly.

Root said that he took the treasurer’s test this afternoon as well, and he made a 100. He said that he believes he understands Title V, and he thinks that’s more important than experience.

Ross yielded his time to former speaker Pro Tempore Adam Horowitz who asked if either candidate has ever served as treasurer of a student group and, if not, what student group involvement they might have.

Root said that he is involved in the General Alumni Association.

Best said that she is a member of Carolina Fever and a member of College Republicans, but she doesn’t believe that national politics should be involved in Student Congress. She said that she has put all of her effort in Student Congress because she did not want to overextend herself.

Morse moved to close the floor.

Simmons objected.

Morse withdrew his motion.

Simmons said that he thinks the most important duties of the Finance chair are to sit on SAFAS and SFAC, and he wanted to know if the candidates plan to attend the meeting.

Best said she plans to attend every meeting, and she will not pass up that opportunity.

Root said that he thinks these absolutely are the most important thing the chair does. He thinks that it is important to collect a consensus amongst the 28,000 and represent all of them.
McClelland asked if either of the candidates has any plans for changes to Title V.

Root said that he does not have in-depth experience with Title V, but he thinks there are things that could be addressed and brought to more attention even if they are not changed.

Best said that she thinks that some time should be taken to see how the changes from the 93rd Congress affect the future.

Brady moved to close debate.

Consent was called.

Best was elected by a vote of 28-5-2.

**Election of the Rules and Judiciary Chair**

Brady nominated Morse who declined.

Pace nominated Crayton who accepted.

Brady moved to close the nominations.

Crayton introduced himself as a rising senior who shares the goal of De la Rosa to cut down the student code.

Morse moved to close the floor.

Consent was called.

Crayton was elected by a vote of 34 members of Congress.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady abstained.

**Election of the Oversight and Advocacy Committee Chair**

Brady nominated Burney who accepted.

Ruble nominated Milder who also accepted.
Milder said that he thinks the Oversight and Advocacy Committee is a very important committee, and he believes that his experience on the committee has prepared him for the position.

Burney said that Oversight has a new goal now which is to have advocacy become a big role by going to the students rather than having students come to student government only. She said that she has also been to the last few ASG meetings, and she wants to work to improve them through changes to ASG.

Griffin asked how the candidates plan on reaching out to graduate and professional students.

Burney said that she thinks that the website she plans to implement will help with communication, and she wants to ask graduate representatives to help express graduate views.

Milder said that as a graduate student who was on Congress last year he thinks he knows how that will work, and it is important to take their opinions on ASG as well.

Simmons asked what the candidates’ positions on the upcoming talks about tuition.

Milder said that he agrees that tuition is one of the most important issues that will be facing students and Student Congress, and he does not think that there should be further tuition increases. He thinks that Student Congress has a certain legitimacy to represent students and their opinions.

Burney said that she believes that it will be important for the OAC to keep the momentum going by continuing things like Tuition Talks.

Ferguson moved to close debate.

Crayton was elected by a secret ballot vote.

**Election of Sergeant of Arms**

Brady nominated Gilmore.
Gilmore accepted.

Brady moved to accept by acclamation.

Consent was called.

**Election of the membership of the Ethics Committee, the Finance Committee, Rules & Judiciary Committee, and the Oversight Committee**

**Ethics**

Woodward said that five members need to sit on the committee.

Brady nominated Gilmore, Morse, Niver, Ferguson (declined), Melline (declined).

Simmons nominated Milder (declined).

Burney nominated McClelland.

Brady nominated Dunnagan.

Ferguson moved to close debate.

Consent was called.

Brady moved to appoint all five members by affirmation.

Consent was called.

**Finance**

The following 10 representatives were nominated to the Finance Committee and approved by a voice vote: Hardeman, Ahlers, Aristy, Boyles, Braxton, Griffin, Hodgin, Murray, Rojas, and Root.

**Rules and Judiciary**

The following ten members were nominated to the Rules and Judiciary Committee and approved by a voice vote: McClelland, Brush, Campbell, Dunnagan, Gilmore, Lucas, Morse, Pace, Simmons, and Woodward.
Oversight and Advocacy

The following ten members were nominated to the Oversight and Advocacy Committee and approved by a voice vote: Milder, Dolan, Ferguson, Goel, Khrenbrink, Mellini, Niver, Ruble, Strader and Stupak.

A Message from the Student Body President

Brady moved to recognize Student Body President Will Leimenstoll.

Leimentstoll spoke about Fix My Campus and gave the phone number to the group to spread. He also said that today was his first day of office hours in the Pit which will be every Wednesday from 12 to 1pm, and he will share the office hours with Congress.

Burney moved to adopt the current standing rules of congress for the session. This passed by a voice vote.

Brady voted no because that should have been done earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by a roll call vote.

For a record of voting please see the attendance and voting record.

Speaker Comparato adourned the meeting at 9:55pm.