The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Student Congress – 94th Congress
Minutes of Full Congress
November 13th, 2012
Gardner 309
Minutes by Ciera Combs, Principal Clerk

Call to Order
Speaker Comparato called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Attendance
The following members were present: Josh Aristy, Brittany Best (Chair), Meghan Boyles, Connor Brady (Speaker Pro Tempore), Michael Braxton, Laura Brush, Jocelyn Burney (Chair), John Caison, Brittany Clark, Travis Crayton (Chair), Brad Dunnagan, Zach Ferguson, Austin Gilmore, Nitin Goel, Shawn Griffin, John Guzek, Ross Hardeman (Vice Chair), Wes Hodgin, Andrew Lucas, Peter McClelland (Vice Chair), Stephanie Mellini, Derek Murray, Kim Niver, Amber Pace, Braxton Reyna, Daniel Rojas, Austin Root, Michael Smalenberger, Will Stelpflug, Joseph Strader (Vice Chair), Jonathan Stupak, Max Williams, Conor Winters, Chris Woodward (Chair), and Paige Comparato (Speaker).

The following members were absent: Kizzmekia Corbett, Kristen Dolan, and Nish Patel.

The following members left early: Wes Hodgin and Austin Root.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady motioned to reorder the agenda as necessary.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Reports of the Officers of Congress
Speaker’s Report

Speaker Comparato said that they received the speaker’s monthly report so they could be updated on what she has been doing the last month. She said that the Help Your Friendly Representative event was tomorrow night and that all on-campus representatives should be there but to let her know if there was an emergency. She said they should be there to represent their constituents and talk to them. She said that off-campus and graduate students were free to come as well. She said the dress was business casual and asked them to publicize the event. She said the next committee meetings were a week from next Tuesday due to Thanksgiving break. She said the due date for legislation would be the 24th by 7:30 PM as always. She said that they have their public comment tonight and that there is a sign-up sheet. She said that if anyone wanted to talk and they weren’t a representative, they would
have to be yielded time. She said she would use her gavel and strictly stick to the
time limits. She stood for queries.

**Speaker Pro Tempore’s Report**

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said that he was waiting on photographs for the
website and that they will be changing over the web.unc interface. He said they’d
have everything rolling out in December. He stood for queries.

**Rules and Judiciary Committee Chair’s Report**

Chair Crayton said that they heard some resolutions and that they received a draft
copy of the constitution. He said asked them to look over it and send feedback. He
said they would send out copies to GPSF and the Executive Branch so they could get
it on the ballot. He stood for queries.

**Finance Committee Chair’s Report**

Chair Best said that they have allocated their money and that they’ll have a meeting
in two weeks. She stood for queries.

**Oversight and Advocacy Committee Chair’s Report**

Chair Burney said that they heard the Speaker’s appointment to the Union Board of
Directors. She said that the members of the committee have picked on a thing to
investigate from the petition page. She said that if anyone wanted access to the
page, to let her know. She said that they had an ASG meeting at UNC-Asheville and
that they passed a local resolution that stated support for gender non-specific
housing. She stood for queries.

**Ethics Committee Chair’s Report**

Chair Woodward said that they had a special election on Monday and that no one
voted in the district 11 special elections. He said they were not going to try again
before Christmas break because of the technicalities. He said they should try to get
information out and try to do a better job of that next time so they can have a
legitimate election before the spring elections. He asked everyone to be mindful of
everyone in the room and respectful. He said there was ways to get their points
across while remaining professional. He said do not restate information because it
would get long and drawn out. He stood for queries.

Representative Smalenberger asked how they would go about getting information
out differently next time.

Chair Woodward said he they tried to get it out by talking to GPSF senators but that
it would take them going a few more times and making them realize the lack of
representation in their district. He said that no one showed up to the mandatory candidates meeting. He said they have to talk more and get more ideas.

Speaker Comparato said they would have to be more persistent next time.

**Receipts of Petitions and Messages**
**Message from the Student Body President**

Student Body President Leimenstoll said that it was world kindness day. He said he wanted to apologize about how he spoke the rules and judiciary committee last week. He said this was a contentious issue and asked the people to stand up who were here to protect the stipend. He said Vice President Myrick could not be here tonight because she had some personal things to deal with her. He began to read a letter from her that expressed an alternative viewpoint on the stipend bill. She did not understand the scope of the position before she took it over.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said that his time expired.

Speaker Comparato said that they looked into the code and that there was no limit on the receipts of petitions and messages.

Student Body President Leimenstoll continued to read the letter from Vice President Myrick. She said that no one has asked her how many hours she puts into this job and that people have had trouble differentiating job positions. She said they have realized how imperative it is to have accessibility to these offices that are representative of the entire student body. She said she tends to work more behind the scenes. She said her and Student Body President Leimenstoll are both there meeting with key administrators and serving on a Board of Trustees subcommittee. She said this was how they are treated and that they want to work hard to keep this position accessible. She said that students that aren't financially sound wouldn't be able to maintain this position if the stipend was taken away. She said she has been lucky to stand in the room with the Board of Governors, talk with the Chancellor, and vote for the students. She said it would be a huge mistake to cut those opportunities. She said she realizes how unworthy she is to be there, especially during the challenging times of the University. She said that she agrees that it would be unethical to pocket the stipend and said that she has donated 100% of her stipend so far. She said that she can afford it but not everyone can. She said she requested for the discussion of this bill to be moved so she could speak but was denied by the Rules & Judiciary Chair. She said that their first obligation was to other students, not the student code. She said they all take themselves too seriously. She said they should be friends first and co-workers second. She said she understands the attention to detail and the code but doesn't think this is the most effective way to solve problems. She said that she met with other representatives over the weekend and that they agreed to disagree. She said that anyone else had opinions or concerns, to come talk to her because she likes to tackle problems. She
said she now feels more compelled to work with them. The letter was finished and he stood for queries.

Chair Crayton said that he received an email from Vice President Myrick about postponing the voting on the bill and said that he didn’t think it was fair. He said it was nothing personal and that representatives have invested a lot of time in this issue. He said it would be inappropriate to postpone it.

Speaker Comparato said that the speeches at the beginning did not have a time limit and referred to the parliamentarian.

**Message from the Graduate and Professional Student Federation President**

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation President was not present.

**Message from the Student Body Treasurer**

Student Body Treasurer Ghosh read a letter she wrote. She said that stipends were seen as salaries or perks. She said that just because a position wasn’t mandated by the code to be in Chapel Hill during the summer didn’t mean they weren’t doing work. She said she appreciated the work Chair Best does over the summer but that it was not enumerated by the code. She said she admired the bill’s attempt to increase student appropriations. She said that she was always looking for other means of revenue and said that they only reason they had much more money on annual appropriations was because she pulled all the records. She said they would have more money next semester. She talked about some specific student organizations and agreed that there should be more money but that there are different ways to go about finding it. She said there were over 500 organizations on campus and that they would never meet 100% of their demand. She said that the Executive Branch doesn’t ask for a lot of money, just for stipends and $200 for printing to host student forums, rallies, and more. She said the rest was all made possible from personal money. She stood for queries.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady read an email from Student Body Treasurer Ghosh from March 5th that supported the removal of the stipend during the summer months. He asked what has changed.

Student Body Treasurer Ghosh said that the Executive Branch did and that she was uninformed and that it was disheartening when people like Chair Crayton promote division.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady asked if this was her personal decision.

Student Body Treasurer Ghosh said yes.

Representative Aristy asked her if stipends should be used to assist the Executive Branch and not for personal gain.
Student Body Treasurer Ghosh said that it depends. She said it’s great when money is put back into Congress and that she also plans to donate some of her stipend. She said that a student might be on financial aid and need the money though.

Representative Aristy asked if a student who isn’t financially stable shouldn’t be looked down upon for using the money for personal gain.

Student Body Treasurer Ghosh said no.

**Message from the Student Attorney General**

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady motioned to limit the messages to two minutes.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Student Attorney General Amanda Claire Grayson gave a report on the honor system as a whole. She said that they have run 45 cases so far and have 60 cases on their backlog, 19 that are academic and 41 that are conduct. She said she wanted to speak on the stipend. She said she strongly disapproves and disagrees with the mandate about who receives a stipend. She said she has a good perspective since she is in the same position. She gave some examples from her personal experience. She stood for queries.

Representative Aristy asked what she has used her stipend for.

Ms. Grayson said for rent, parking, and office supplies.

**Message from the Honor Court Chair**

Honor Court Chair Margaret Anderson said that she emailed them her results and that she stands with the student attorney general on the issue of the stipend.

Vice Chair Strader said he was confused in her statement about who needs to be here over the summer.

Ms. Anderson said that the honor court chair has to be here and student attorney does not have to be here over the summer.

**SCR-94-145 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE UNDERGRADUATE HONOR COURT CHAIR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE HONOR COURT**

Ms. Anderson said that Natalie Meyer has undergone the complete training and has shadowed five cases and is extremely well qualified.
Vice Chair Strader moved to the previous question.

Seconded.

Consent was called and she was approved.

**Public Comment Period**

Amanda Claire Grayson spoke on the Student Body Vice President stipend bill. She said she was speaking on behalf of Zealan Hoover, the former Student Body Vice President. She said he wrote an email that highlighted the service of the previous administrations and the Leimenstoll administration. She said the argument is that they do not do more than they are required to in the code. She said he reordered the stipend and used it to help him complete his duties. He said there was not a precedent and that RHA is 100% student funded. He said the Student Body Vice President was a full time job working as hard as they can.

As a point of information, Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said that just students that live on campus, not all students, paid RAs.

Ben Smith spoke on the Student Body Vice President stipend bill. He said he hears about time and commitment but he is a student involved in three executive boards and an office assistant part time. He said he understand that time is precious and is wondering where his stipend is.

John Son spoke on the Student Body Vice President stipend bill. He said he was the Co-Chair of Carolina Advocacy committee. He said that there are few positions that require a huge amount of work, and the Vice President is one of these. He said the position was a lot of work and in the financial aid office. He said the simple reality was that huge portions of students were here on financial office. He said taking the stipend away created a choice: take the position and be punished or not take the position and be punished for being on financial aid. He said others might ask why Presidents of Campus Y don’t have stipends. He said they are not saying they don’t deserve them but that Student Body President and Vice President do. He said there are other solutions and urged them to work together.

Nikita Shamdsani spoke on the Student Body Vice President stipend bill. She said that all the executive branch members were entitled to their own opinions. She said that they see the work the Vice President puts into her position. She said she hopes the representatives took the time to read the letters sent from the previous Vice Presidents and former Student Body President Hogan.

Carter McCornich spoke on the Student Body Vice President stipend bill. He said he was a covenant scholar whose family falls under 200% of the poverty line. He said he relies heavily on his scholarship. He said he can surely say that work study is
how he depends on a social life and whether or not he will fly home on fall break. He said it would be impossible to do all of those things and be the Vice President. He said they were barring him from doing that if they removed the stipend.

**General Orders**

**SCB-94-148 A BILL TO REMOVE THE STUDENT BODY UNDERGRADUATE VICE PRESIDENT’S STIPEND**

Chair Burney motioned to limit debate to 25 minutes in the interest of time.

Seconded.

Representative Griffin said as long as every representative got to talk if they want to.

Burney said they could vote to extend it.

Consent was called.

Chair Woodward motioned to limit debate to 2 minutes per person.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Chair Crayton introduced the bill. He said it was a step in the right direction for student government. He said that this decision stems from a number of facts. He said it shows that they value organizations more than student government. He said that they have a bias system. He said that no Vice President has been on financial aid. He said that qualified applicants must have already dedicated time to student government and that part-time job students can’t compete with these applicants. He said that Congress could send a message that says that they aren’t going to use their fees to pay people that are experienced enough to become Vice President. He said that repealing this stipend would show that they value all organizations and the service they give to the University and surrounding communities.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said they needed to level the playing field with student government. He said that they have had concerned students emailing them. He said that they have to level the playing field for students that don’t know who their Student Body President is and what they’re doing. He said he applauds the ones who donate their stipends but that this is a student fee that is being donated to one organization. He said students have paid into this process and they are responsible to allocating them. He said it is against the students who have elected them.

Chair Crayton said he wanted to finish his final remarks. He asked why this position was so special. He said it was unfair. He read a letter from the President of Tar Heel
Rifle Club that said it is about his service and not gain. He said it’s important to make it available to other organizations instead of one specific person. He said this money was very valuable.

Representative Smalenberger said that students could potentially rely on the money and other students that don’t have financial aid. He said that the student code says that some individuals are outlined to hold these positions and are required to work this amount and be reimbursed for it. He said the student code and constitution outline specifics. He asked where in the code it says that the student must stay here over the summer in order to receive a stipend.

Chair Crayton said it was in chapter 3 of title I. He read the statement.

Representative Smalenberger asked where it says they provide stipends.

Chair Crayton said section 3:11 of title V outlines what positions provide stipends.

Vice Chair McClelland said he wanted to go through some things in the fact sheet. He said that they could look at different ways to get reimbursed. He said the Executive Branch could request funding. He said that the past Vice Presidents have found ways to balance their duties and school. He said the summer mandate has been inconsistent and that they would fix that. He said that other student groups are not compensated.

Representative Guzek said the underlying concern was the idea that the funds that go to the Vice President would be better at promoting accessibility to enrich services instead of allowing it to go the Vice President so they can choose whichever organization they want. He stressed the difference between positions that require lots of time like part-time jobs. He said the difference was that the Vice President could appoint as many appointments as they need. He said they have the unique advantage to alleviate their work and that other student leaders do not have this luxury.

Representative Stelpflug said that he doesn’t think personal profit has anything to do with it. He said the real issue was that Vice President Myrick believes that her fellow obligation was to the students, not the student code. He said the student code was the only legal manner that the students have. He said that the belief that any Executive Branch member can decide what the interest of the students are no matter what the student code says is a dangerous path.

Representative Stupak said that whoever was in the Vice President position was there to serve the students. He said they could come through Congress for personal cost and that the people in these positions are there to serve the University.

Vice Chair Hardeman said he wanted to speak on the notion about being financially secure. He said he was on student loans. He said he was the Vice Chair of the
Finance Committee, which doesn’t compare to the Vice President, but he is also the treasurer for the College Republicans and did an unpaid internship with the Romney campaign. He said he was a full-time student and worked two jobs and planned ahead for his duties. He said he was trying to get his footing for taking inventory over the summer and took 12 hours of summer school and also took the LSAT. He said he prepared ahead and money doesn’t drive the service of Rachel Myrick. He said he has seen it on the faces of student groups, who can make more of an impact.

Representative Dunnagan said he has gotten a flood of emails from constituents and Presidents of organizations that are in favor of this bill. He said if the position was not required to work over the summer, then they shouldn’t be paid out of summer funds. He gave some examples of what NC State and Appalachian State have in their budget and what they pay in terms of stipends.

Speaker Comparato said they were up to 20 minutes of debate.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady moved to remove the limit on the debate.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Williams said there have been many points made and his opinion was that these positions don’t parallel versus organizations. He said that these positions affect more students than an organization that a lot of students aren’t involved in. He said the stipend was appropriate given the time and it affects the whole student body.

Representative Gilmore said he agreed with Representative Williams. He said he was the President of the Young Democrats and has done over 300 hours of work this semester and doesn’t want a stipend. He said that if Young Democrats weren’t there tomorrow, life would go on. He said if they didn’t have a Student Body President Vice President, they would lose a part of the voice of students. He said he was hesitant to make this position more exclusive than it already is. He said the stipend accounted for just .22% of student fees. He yielded time to Student Body Treasurer Ghosh.

Student Body Treasurer addressed Smalenberger’s concerns. She said that there were other options and other ways to get funding.

Shrija referred Smalenberger to the other part on the bill. She said the Guzek have options for others. Hardeman have other means to get other funding.

Representative Ferguson said he doesn’t like either side. He said he thinks they should be 100% need based but doesn’t like the idea of getting rid of all of them. He said that when he looks for opportunities, he looks for stipends because he is in a lot
of debt. He said that he couldn’t support the entire bill and was worried about the access part of it.

Representative Aristy said that they have heard many arguments. He said that the Executive Branch had reimbursements and an endowment fund. He said the idea here was that they are more important than student organization. He said there was more student organization that affect more on campus. He said to have the idea that one organization is more important than other students was insulting.

Representative Pace asked why they have not discussed changing the code so that the Vice President has to stay over the summer. She said they should format it and not take away from the stipend. She yielded time to Student Body President Leimenstoll.

Student Body President Leimenstoll said he doesn’t his position is more important but the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly do. He said he was sorry and that he couldn’t send an external appointment to the Chancellor. He said that it wasn’t fair and that he doesn’t take himself that serious and neither does Vice President Myrick. He said that if he only did his duties, he would have so much free time that he would have multiple jobs. He said that stipends based on need would not be that easy because financial aid status changes.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said that he was going back to his original points. He said that they need to level the playing field and that it was unfair that the Board of Trustees does not look at them the same way as student organizations. He said he liked the idea of need-based stipends. He said that they have heard a lot about this bill but said that they do not have to pay the Vice President for the Chancellor to take her seriously. He moved to the previous question.

Seconded.

Vice Chair Strader objected.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady withdrew his motion.

Representative Rojas said that people have mentioned that this position involves a lot of work and wouldn’t be able to carry that work if they weren’t being paid. He said that they could find someone who was confident to pursue this job and be able to mix work with responsibilities.

Representative Murray seconded Student Body President Leimenstoll’s previous points and yielded time to him.

Student Body President Leimenstoll said the position that is taken so seriously should to be open to every single person on this campus. He said he would have never run if there weren’t a stipend. He said the idea that the system is rigged so
people have to do work study jobs. He said he made it to this role somehow and that it would be condescending to let people like him not become President or Vice President.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said he appreciated being called condescending. He said that they have comments from the Vice President and that she isn’t here for the money and doesn’t think anyone else is. He said the threatening and condescending emails to anyone was unfair.

Student Body President Leimenstoll said that was not what he meant.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady said it was disrespectful and doesn’t appreciate it.

Representative Griffin asked if he could yield right of reply.

Speaker Comparato said Speaker Pro Tempore Brady felt like it was directed at him.

Chair Crayton said this argument was premised on the fact that student government is better than everyone else. He said that there are so many students that need these funds and that they are taking away from them. He said they can’t stipend all leadership positions but they are vital to this campus. He said they needed to stop creating special exceptions for themselves.

Chair Best said that as Finance Chair, she was not better than anyone else. She said that she choose to be here over the summer to oversee terminal appropriations and that she doesn’t deserve a stipend but that she was here to serve the student body.

Representative Hodgin said that he wanted to point out that it was idealistic that one position is better than any other. He said that it was the inherent quality of the way the system is set up. He said that they had a niche to fill that puts them at a better vocal point. He yielded time to the Student Body President Leimenstoll.

Student Body President Leimenstoll said that he didn’t want to make it seem that he only ran for the stipend. He said that he could not have sacrificed the income to be involved without the stipend. He said that doesn’t mean he’s just in it for the money because it’s not a lot of money. He said the stipend was beneficial from his experience. He said he doesn’t think his position is more important or that he’s the best lobbyist, but he said it was an honor to do it.

Representative Smalenberger said that by the book, he has to vote for this bill. He said that they could change the code like Representative Pace pointed out. He said that the Executive Branch rarely asked for money. He said a change needed to take place that says that the Vice President must work over the summer.

Representative Brush yielded time to Vice Chair Strader.
Vice Chair Strader said that he is an outlier in this equation and that he received one of these stipends but also co-sponsored this bill. He said he was on financial aid at the time he was Honor Court Chair and also worked at the same time. He said that he recognizes that there are students that have need and they could address those kinds of stipends. He said there was no good way to do that now. He said when they see organizations getting their funds cut, there is no way to justify giving funds to an appointed position that doesn’t work over the summer.

Chair Best said this might seem like repeating the same thing but they have a special interest to make sure that an organization receives the maximum amount of funding. She said they have had to turn down so many organizations this year. She said it does hurt her to email them and tell them they don’t have the money. She said the statement that they aren’t looking into other ways to fund groups was untrue. She said it’s their duty to help their constituents and that this was the first step.

Representative Stelpflug moved to the previous question.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady requested a roll call vote.

Speaker Comparato said an abstention technically was not a vote that doesn’t get counted in the yes or nos. She said it would adjust the ratio.

After a roll call vote, the bill was passed with 22 yea, 9 nos, and 4 abstentions. Nos: Boyles, Ferguson, Gilmore, Griffin, Hodgin, Murray, Niver, Pace, and Williams. Abstentions: Mellini, Root, Woodward, and Comparato.

Introduction of Concurrent Resolutions

SCR-94-148 A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE UNC LGBTQ CENTER

Representative Niver said that this resolution would hopefully be a little less controversial. She said that a member of a GPSF appointed position said there was a call from students to relocate the LGBTQ center. She said that it was in SASB now and that it used to be on mid-campus. She said there have been fewer drops in the visits and that they’ve had two submissions on the petition page about its accessibility.

Chair Burney said that it was a great concurrent resolution and that she was happy to see the GPSF senators engaged. She said she was in favor of it.
Burney said it was a really great concurrent resolution and was happy to see the GPSF senators were engaged in these issues. She said she was in favor of it.

Chair Best moved to the previous question.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

**Approval of Minutes**

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady motioned to approve the minutes.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

**Consent Calendar**

**SCR-94-11 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SPEAKER’S APPOINTMENT TO THE CAROLINA UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SCR-94-146 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CLERKS OF STUDENT CONGRESS**

Speaker Pro Tempore Brady moved to adopt the consent calendar.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

**Notices and Announcements**

Representative Gilmore said that it saddens him when people are disrespectful and asked to please keep it in check, even when they have the right to reply. He said even if they don’t agree with Student Body President Leimenstoll and the executive branch, please be respectful because that is whom they work with. He said it was in their best interest to work together.

Vice Chair McClelland said that the gender non-specific housing was addressing the Board of Trustees tomorrow.

Representative Griffin said that they were elected to represent their members and that an abstention was not a vote and that they were not doing their duty as a Congress member.
Representative Smalenberger said he could not disagree more and said that there were three votes to choose from.

Representative Griffin said it wasn’t a vote.

Representative Smalenberger said that they could abstain a vote; he said there were three possibilities. He said there was a better way to call out people who abstained.

Chair Woodward said that the student pharmacy was out to rename their pharmacy. He said the best name submitted would win an iPad mini. He said that Representative Niver and himself have been asked to go to the GPSF meetings to represent Congress and give updates.

Representative Aristy said that Vice President Myrick did invite them to come to cabinet meeting to see how they work. He said that was encouraging.

Representative Goel said they have a social tomorrow. He said he didn’t want to say the word mandatory but that the governors have to go. He asked everyone to come out and represent his or her district.

Speaker Comparato said that they technically couldn’t make it mandatory but that it was important and has been planned for months. She said it was the first step for a good relationship with the community government.

Chair Burney yielded time to Mr. Christy Lambden.

Mr. Lambden said that Congress funded Cricket and asked them to come out to an event to support them.

Speaker Pro Tempore said that a lot of people have asked about SafeWalk. He said they are meeting at 3 on Thursday and that they are free to come in and listen to what they are addressing.

Vice Chair Hardeman said that the better operation did win the election.

Chair Best said to talk to her if anyone has any changes they want to see made to Title V.

Representative Guzek said that he appreciated the people who ate some of the food and getting to know other representatives. He said he hopes they can do similar things in the future.

**Adjournment**

Chair Best motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded.
Consent was called.

The roll call vote passed favorably for adjournment.

Speaker Comparato adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.