Call to Order
Representative Comparato called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Oath of Office
Members that were not present at inauguration took the Oath of Office.

Call of the Roll
The following members were present: Andrew Barksdale, Brittany Best, Dushyanth Biyala, Connor Brady, Jocelyn Burney, John Caison, Brittany Clark, Charles Collins, Paige Comparato, Kizzmekia Corbett, Stephen Deal, Zach Ferguson, Anthony Ferrara, Charlie Greene, John Guzek, Ivy Hardy, Andrew Lucas, Peter McClelland, Adam Norris, Kim Niver, John O'Connor, Prerak Patel, Austin Root, Elise Rosa, Veeral Saraiya, Michael Smalenberger, Will Stelpflug, Walker Swain, Laura Tollini, Harrison Touby, Bennett Vass, Steven Walter, and Conor Winters.

The following members were absent: Celina Holson and Stephanie Mellini.

The following members were late: Max Williams.

The following members left early: Andrew Barksdale, Charles Collins, Paige Comparato, Zach Ferguson, Ivy Hardy, Adam Norris, John O'Connor, Austin Root, Elisa Rosa, and Walker Swain.

The following persons were also in attendance: Christy Lambden (Student Body President).

Representative Burney moved to adopt the standing rules.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Burney motioned to add a period of public comment before elections.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Comparato said Representative Clark was going to make an announcement.
Representative Clark said there was a lot of emotion going into tonight. She asked everyone to not make any personal attacks and to keep it professional in the public comment period.

**Public Comment Period**

Josh Aristy said he was a member of the 94th Congress and knew all the candidates. He said he was going to talk about the Speaker election since it was most important. He said he doubted Representative Brady at first and did not vote for him last year. He said he has known Representative Root for a year and said he has a patronizing attitude and has seen him yell at student organizations.

Representative Clark asked him to keep it relevant.

Mr. Aristy said it was completely relevant and applied to the public comment period. He said Representative Root said he has seen him deal with the executive branch and ruining everything when he didn’t get his way. He recommended they make a smarter decision and vote for who has been here longer, more competent, and has the most experience.

Representative Comparato said this was the first time public comment was before an election and said she was not sure how she felt about it. She said Representative Root would be able to reply.

Mr. Aristy said he was not a member of Congress so a right of reply would not be in order.

Representative Comparato said a member of the public or representative could.

Mr. Aristy said they could not.

Representative Comparato said since this was new and was voted to be put on the agenda, she could add Representative Root to the end of the public comment list and everyone else if they were mentioned. She said that was fair.

Travis Crayton said he had the pleasure of working with some the candidates and the displeasure of working with others. He said it was inappropriate for the Speaker to use time to say who to vote for and that it was an abuse of power. He said he worked with Brittany Best, Connor Brady, Peter McClelland, and Jocelyn Burney. He said they had a great team and it was great working with them. He said he did not vote for Representative Brady last year and that it was the biggest mistake he made. He said he has put a lot of time into the work of Congress and beyond. He said they would get a lot more done if Representative Brady was Speaker.

Representative Comparato said she didn’t them whom to vote for.

Gabe Chess said he was never a member of Congress and was here on behalf of Representative Best. He said he worked with her as a treasurer of an organization. He said she made the process transparent and that she always made herself available for a meeting. He said she still remains in contact even though her job was over.
Parth Gandhi said he was a treasurer that worked with Representative Best. He said it was his first time being a treasurer and that she help prep him for Congress and told him exactly what he needed to do. She said reelected her would be the smartest thing to do.

Grant Anastas-King said he was not a member of Congress. He said he was speaking for Representative Best and that she was wonderful to work with. He said Representative McClelland was great about informing him about what is going on in Congress, as well as Representative Brady. He said they have both been great at keeping him informed. He encouraged them to vote for Representative Burney also for Ethics Chair.

Representative Caison said the rules applied to him.

Representative Comparato said that he was more than welcome to ask questions later.

Representative Best said this could be the 2 minutes every representative has before the meeting.

Representative Comparato said this period was for member of the public and they haven’t had a representative talk during it before. She said he would still have time to talk.

Shrija Ghosh said she was a constituent of District 1, the former Student Body Treasurer, and the former Vice Chair of the Finance committee. She said they do not have a Treasurer currently and said it would be hard to finance many events by leaving this position. She said it was imperative that it was filled tonight. She said they could lose an entire month of speaking with administrators and creating SFAC. She said if a Treasurer was not picked on the 23rd, then they would have this position vacant for 5 months. She said the Finance Chair was one of the most demanding positions and it would be unfair to him or her to fulfill the Treasurer’s role also. She supported Student Body President Lambden’s pick.

Representative Comparato said it had been two minutes.

Representative Burney motioned for more time.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Ms. Ghosh said Matt Farley served as her Executive Assistant and helped assemble materials for SFAC and helped with the funding multiplier and money.unc.edu. She ensured that he would be able to work with Congress. She said he was the most qualified and would be capable. She said he offered a fresh and innovation vision to the office.

Representative Best said that another person came to speak and that he wasn’t a member of Congress. She motioned for him to speak.

Seconded.

Consent was called.
Donald Huggins said he was a Treasurer for the Black Law School association was asked to speak for Representative Best. He said his experience with her has been a pleasure and that she did a great job getting him acclimated. He said their organization would be in a good spot if she was reelected and that she went above and beyond.

Representative Root said he hoped that the Q&A would be informative for all of them.

Representative Comparato said she would preside for the Ethics Committee Chair election and then the new Speaker would. She said that she was a normal representative as of now and that was why she was not bias in her opinions. She said the floor would be open to nominations, the member must accept, and then they could motion to close the floor. She said they would bring up the candidates and go in reverse order with 5 minutes to introduce themselves before the query session. She said the Ethics Committee Chair would be first, followed by the officers, and membership of committees.

Representative Smalenberger asked if it was appropriate to say why they were nominating someone.

Representative Comparato said they could have a tagline.

**Election of the Ethics Committee Chair**

Representative Root motioned to nominate Representative Brittany Clark.

Representative Clark accepted.

Representative McClelland motioned to nominate Representative Jocelyn Burney.

Representative Burney accepted.

There was a motion to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Burney said this was her 3rd session in Congress. She said she was a junior from New Jersey majoring in archaeology. She said she was Vice Chair of the Oversight Committee and a member of the Ethics Committee her first year and was the Chair of Oversight this past year and a delegate to ASG. She said she was a good fit to be the Ethics Chair. She said she knew how to preside over a meeting and would know which complaints should be taken seriously.

Representative Clark said she was a returning member and a graduate student. She said it was important to consider the overall atmosphere in Congress and that she enjoyed working with every person in Congress. She said she was a good communicator and could bring people together to work out differences. She said the main goal was to work out issues.
said she was on the Rules and Judiciary committee and was familiar with the new Ethics Laws.

Representative Stelpflug asked what their goals were and what they hoped to achieve.

Representative Clark said her goal was to be a facilitator between people who felt the need to submit Ethics complaints.

Representative Burney said she hopes the Ethics Committee does not have to meet. She said they had some ethics violations in the 94th session but they were able to put their methods to the test.

Representative Smalenberger said they were both fantastic for the position and asked to write their names on the board.

Representative McClelland asked them both to name a personality characteristic that most qualifies them to serve as the Ethics Chair.

Representative Burney said her experience of being in Congress. She said she would be confident in running the meeting and working with others.

Representative Clark said she did not like seeing other people upset. She said her experience as Sergeant of Arms has helped her also.

Representative Niver asked what kind of people they would want to see on the Ethics Committee.

Representative Clark said she would prefer people that were unbiased and could keep an open mind.

Representative Burney agreed and said they should put the students they represent beyond themselves and be willing to be honest and say what they think.

Representative Ferguson moved to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

After a ballot vote, Representative Clark was elected as the Ethics Chair for the 95th Session with 17 votes. Representative Burney received 16 votes.

**Election of the Speaker**

Representative McClelland motioned to nominate Representative Connor Brady.

Representative Brady accepted.
Representative Comparato motioned to nominate Representative Austin Root.

Representative Root accepted.

Representative Stelpflug motioned to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Root said he was a sophomore majoring in economics and political science and minoring in Chinese. He said he had the qualifications, leadership style, and vision for Congress to be Speaker. He said he was on SFAC, where he was a vocal advocate for student rights on that committee, and he also sat on the Student Technology Advisory Board. He said he was a member of the Finance Committee and was well versed in the Student Code and offered several bills to change Title V, including one that saves them thousands of dollars on publications. He said he always keeps his eye on a vision and he does not get distracted from his goals. He said he supports people that are innovative and take Congress to good levels. He said he was open to dialogue and likes to acknowledge obstacles because they are not impossible to solve. He said he likes to celebrate success and acknowledge failure when it happens and move on. He said he would never quit working for them and would be inclusive. He said his vision was for a new, constructive Congress. He said the 94th was not productive and damaging to Student Congress. He said there were Ethics cases and different Supreme Court cases involving Congress that had a lot to do with gridlock and pettiness, which does not belong in Congress. He said he was tired of the pettiness and that he was running against personal bias and egos. He said they were all equal and they would not engage in it any longer. He said they should put an emphasis on students because they were the reason they were here. He said they engage each other a lot but they do not really draw in people from the outside and that needs to change. He said all the committees discuss important issues and it was important to draw people in and have a discussion with them. He said he wanted to emphasize that they need a bigger presence on campus because they can do a lot for the student body.

Chair Clark said his time was up.

Representative Brady welcomed the new members and thanked them for helping him celebrate his 21st birthday in Congress. He said he served as a Clerk under Zach De La Rosa, who led the effort to rewrite the Student Code. He said in January of last year, he ran in a special election and could not wait to take the oath so he went to De La Rosa, resigned as Clerk, took the oath, and submitted bills. He said they could represent the interests of students and each other and be a part of something greater that can be taken to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor. He said one of his accomplishments was creating the public comment period because the public did not have the opportunity to voice concerns on particular bills. He said he revamped their website at congress.unc.edu. He said when he took it over it was just a Wikispace but now they have a bill tracking system and the minutes are online. He said he has reached out to other branches of government and said he worked with RHA to create a mixer and fund the public forum. He said they have faced trying times this year, especially with the sexual assault policy. He said he has a background in One Act
and would serve on the Student Grievance Committee as Speaker and would be important to writing this policy. He said he wanted to reach out more to graduate students who are 39% of their campus. He said he wanted to work with the Lambden administration and said he already has a great working relationship with them. He said they will not always agree but he would be more than willing to sit down with them and discuss their differences. He said members of Congress could all agree that they want to feel like they have been a part of something greater.

Representative Hardy said she noticed Representative Root talked about inclusivity but heard that he was an author of a bill cutting funding for ammunition. She was wondering if he would justify that.

Representative Root said it was not about a funding request, but about Title V. He said he met with Mr. Anastas-King when he was making the bill. He said he didn’t take offense when it was vetoed and there was no contradiction of being inclusive. He said it was a difference of opinion.

Representative Hardy asked what his reasoning was behind the bill.

Representative Root said he didn’t think funding ammunition was an appropriate use of student fees.

Representative Burney asked what the biggest challenge facing the University was and what they could do as Speaker to solve it.

Representative Brady said safety and tuition. He said safety was most important because it was unacceptable for any student to walk around campus think they were not safe. He said his experience with One Act will be instrumental in rewriting the sexual assault policy and he would make sure all voices would be heard. He said he wants to hear from administrators and survivors. He said he wants to keep the university affordable and advocate for Congress and the Executive Branch. He said he would work with members of Congress to go to Raleigh for an advocacy day.

Representative Root said the number one issue was tuition and safety was also very important. He said he was an out-of-state student from New Jersey and that a 12.3% increase was something he could not do. He said he was comfortable in lobbying against that increase. He said looking at the $55 million cut across the board, it affects financial aid and there would be less to go around. He said UNC prides itself on meeting 100% of demonstrated need for financial and doesn’t want them to sacrifice that. He said he didn’t have a safety net and had to figure out how to make ends meet.

Representative McClelland asked them to explain how they would work with the Lambden administration.

Representative Brady said him and Student Body President Lambden have a great working relationship. He said he did not agree with Student Body President Leimenstoll on anything and was not looking forward to the future. He said he wanted Student Body President Lambden to sit on meetings and wanted someone from Congress sitting in on executive
branch meetings. He said he doesn’t want any surprise legislation this time. He said they have a close relationship and was looking forward to working with him.

Representative Root said he was a platform campaign manager for Student Body President Lambden and would living with him next year. He said to say they had a close relationship would be an understatement. He said he worked well with the Leimenstoll administration and was close friends with former Student Body Treasurer Ghosh. He said the most productive relationship he would have would be with the Executive Branch.

Representative Best said she was naturally biased because she was the Finance Chair. She said she witnessed a group with a treasurer that could barely make it out of the room before crying. She said she felt like she was targeted for what her group stood for. She said it was never appropriate for a leader to do that.

Representative Root asked if that was a question.

Representative Best said yes and asked how they both felt about that.

Representative Root said it was not fair for anyone to assume that he was the cause for that incident.

Representative Best said she specifically named him.

Representative Root said that wasn’t fair. He said they had been there for 4 hours and it was a tense situation. He said the treasurer was in there for multiple hours. He said he has met with finance groups on his own and he was not the Chair. He said he met with Alianza and helped their treasurer navigate the finance process. He said he strove to make people feel comfortable.

Representative Brady said it was not acceptable for treasurers to come in and feel intimidated. He said the process was confusing and couldn’t expect them to come in and be scholars of Title V. He said he has sat in on Finance committee meetings where it was tense and offered to pay for an outfit that an organization wanted.

Representative Smalenberger said he thought they were both outstanding candidates. He asked how they expected to bring people in Congress together.

Representative Brady said last year as Speaker Pro Tempore he sat down with Representative Guzek and planned an informal meal to have before a Congress meeting. He said the conversations they have are more meaningful to him than the bills. He said he planned the public forum for outreach and he wants to see people talking and getting to know each other because the relationships were very important.

Representative Root said Representative Smalenberger was not able to attend the Congress retreat because he was elected in the special election. He said he was going on a retreat next weekend and it was a great way to get to know each other and bond. He said when people come out to a retreat, they respond well when they can meet one on one and build a
relationship based on trust and understanding. He said he wants to get to know all the new members and wants to have more dialogue about the issues.

Representative Niver asked them both to comment on when they thought it was important for the presiding officer to make their opinion known and when it was better to remain neutral.

Representative Root said his role was to be moderator. He said there was a place for his opinion but the opinions of other members were more important. He said it was important to make sure the flow of discussion was in a good place and everyone was speaking.

Representative Brady said it was great to remain neutral and have an opinion. He said it was important for the Speaker to represent their district. He said it was more important for the Speaker’s opinion to be heard in Committee. He said his opinion has been known and he always treated people fairly.

Representative Guzek asked what outreach strategies they had for this next session.

Representative Brady said one of the things they agree on most is that outreach is one of the most important things. He said he wanted to see more social media efforts. He said they didn’t have a Facebook account. He said he admits that not enough people came to the public forum but they still need to make the efforts and advertise the Oversight petition page and public comment period.

Representative Root said outreach was really important to him because not enough people know who they are or what they do. He said he wanted to do more office hours in the Pit so they could be more accessible to people. He said they have so many resources to offer to students and agreed that they need a Facebook presence. He said there were many other social media outlets they could try out. He said he liked the idea of a public forum because it was not as intimidating as going to a Congress meeting. He said one thing he will not stop doing is talking about Congress a lot.

Representative Ferrara asked how they would work with the new state and internal affairs committee the Lambden Administration created and the administration in general.

Representative Root said he wrote a lot of portions of his platform. He said they have a good working relationship and hopes that it will flourish during his administration. He said they have talked about the idea of overhauling the Carolina Advocacy Committee because of budget cuts. He said he would sit on the new committee no matter what happens.

Representative Brady said they also have a great working relationship and that he was one of the first people they contacted when they were having problems with confirmation. He said and him and Student Body President Lambden have worked together in Congress, in class, and have talked about many issues. He said for advocacy in Raleigh, legislators may count Student Body President Lambden out because of his British descent but that he was ready to stand beside him. He said they would advocate for low tuition and to keep gender non-specific housing.
Representative Hardy asked Representative Root about his opposition to Matt Farley and how that would hurt his relationship with Student Body President Lambden.

Representative Root said they respectfully disagreed on things. He said it was not going to ruin anything. He said he opposed Mr. Farley because of his qualifications and that it was okay to have those disagreements. He said he would like to hear Mr. Farley defend himself.

Representative Comparato said one of the most important roles for the Speaker was making external appointments. She said they wanted to make sure that the appointments were diverse and come from different backgrounds. She said she appointed a freshman to the Union Board of Directors, which was a position Representative Brady applied for also. She said after he appointed, Representative Brady grilled him during Oversight and made him cry afterwards. She asked if they would look for students that are diverse for these appointments.

Representative Brady said it was a great question and admitted that her appointment was not qualified for the position. He said the appointment did not know who the director of the Union was, which was basic knowledge the appointment needs to know. He said he spoke to the appointment shortly after it occurred. He said he appreciated the diversity of each appointment and when the Speaker involves congressional leadership. He said they were not included last year and did not know the background of that appointment. He said he would bring more voices to the table.

Representative Comparato asked if she could respond.

Chair Clark said no.

Representative Root said he looks for whether that person is qualified and if they have a diverse opinion. He said he wants people on committees who want to be there and can do the most good for the student body. He said it was important to also include congressional leadership so they know who is being appointed.

Representative Stelpflug asked what their greatest accomplishment was in Congress when looking back.

Representative Root said his greatest accomplishment was the publications bill. He said they were out of money in six weeks first semester last session and he thought it was important to distribute funds more appropriately. He said he wrote a bill that capped the number of copies they could print because he has seen discarded magazines out in the Pit. He said it was student fee money on the floor and that no one would like to $39 they paid on the floor. He said after speaking with former Student Body Treasurer Ghosh, they decided 800 was a good amount of copies per issue and it would save them thousands of dollars. He said a lot of publications fell under that and only 3 groups fell above it. He said he was most proud of that.

Representative Brady agreed with Representative Root and said it was a great bill. He said he didn’t accept a salary when he was Clerk of Congress when it was $10/hour. He said he didn’t think it was right for clerks to earn $10/hour when CDS employees made minimum
wage so they changed that. He said it was nothing against the clerks back then or now because they do a great job. He said it was just leveling the playing field. He said that Representative Comparato said they should never forget their constituents and he said that is why he helped create the public comment period. He said even if no one ever used it, it would be successful because the opportunity was there.

Representative Ferguson said he was a law student and this was his 3rd session. He said he has seen Representative Root take clear positions and seen people disagree with him and try to distort what he says in order to smear his reputation. He said he has continued to him act respectful and be positive and asked if he would bring that positivity into the Speaker role.

Representative Root said one of the last things he did in the last session was a bill that he received threatening emails from. He said his positivity is something he wants to share with everyone so no one is scared to bring anything to the table. He said they were friends first and Congress members second. He said he wanted everyone to have that attitude so the 95th Congress would be more successful.

Representative Smalenberger said he realized the list was long but made a motion to move into a vote.

Seconded.

Representative Burney objected and said she was going to yield to Student Body President Lambden.

Representative Smalenberger said if he wanted to talk, he would yield to him now.

Student Body President Lambden said he would talk.

Representative Smalenberger did not withdraw his motion.

Representative Best objected.

Representative Smalenberger withdrew his motion.

Representative Touby asked how appropriate the Speaker’s opinion would be. He said they were students so their power was limited but that it was imperative to have a strong relationship with the administration and the Executive Branch. He asked how they would make sure they have that.

Representative Brady said as an RA on campus, he provides programs to his residents and has brought in Chancellor Thorp before. He said already has a close relationship with the administration because of his job as an RA and role in Congress. He said they were losing Chancellor Thorp but that he wanted to be one of the first people to talk to the new Chancellor after Student Body President Lambden. He said the new Chancellor may not know the appreciation for student government and it’s important that they do. He said they would have to discuss how important student government is.
Representative Root said he loved working with administrators. He said his involvement in the GAA has exposed him to working with administrator and alumni. He said the important thing was the tone they take with administrators and show that they want to work with them, not dictate them. He said he wanted to foster dialogue with administrators and wanted to talk about financial aid and how the tuition cut will affect them.

Representative McClelland yielded 3 minutes to Student Body President Lambden and asked him to speak on his relationship with the candidates.

Chair Clark said it was her understanding that a question had to be asked.

Parliamentarian Windsor said an overall question could be addressed to them at the end.

Student Body President Lambden said it would be their Speaker, not his Speaker. He said he not going to express an opinion about which candidate he prefers because that would be inappropriate. He said he was trying to separate personal and professional relationships and encouraged them all to remember that. He said he loved both these guys on a personal level. He said on a professional level, he has had more conversation with Representative Brady. He asked them what their favorite Harry Potter book was.

Representative Root said the Sorcerer’s Stone.

Representative Brady also said the Sorcerer’s Stone.

Representative McClelland moved to close the floor.

Seconded.

Representative Best objected.

Representative McClelland withdrew his motion.

Representative Best said she talked to Representative Root about Mr. Farley and his qualifications. She said his opinion changed about him. She said she was concerned with this when times were vital and they were going to have a new Chancellor. She asked if they would take a stand. She asked how he planned to address this and said Representative Brady could speak on it.

Representative Root asked her to restate the question.

Representative Best said she noticed the big change of opinion on Mr. Farley. She asked if that indicated a leadership that would change positions or be more steadfast.

Representative Root said he was not sure when they talked about Mr. Farley and said that his opinion has not changed. He said he had a firm set of beliefs. He said it was more important to have fellow members get their opinions on the floor. He said he was open for discussion but that his beliefs were firm.
Representative Brady said his opinion of Mr. Farley never changed and he wanted to support Student Body President Lambden’s appointment. He said it was respectable that Representative was open for change. He said if someone’s opinion did change, he would go to that person directly and ask why it changed and talk it out.

Representative Best moved to the previous question.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

After a ballot vote, Representative Brady was elected as Speaker for the 95th Session with 26 votes. Representative Root received 9 votes.

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

Speaker Brady presided.

**Speaker Pro Tempore Election**

Representative Stelpflug motioned to nominate Representative John Guzek.

Representative Guzek accepted.

Chair Clark motioned to nominate Representative Peter McClelland.

Representative McClelland accepted.

There was a motion to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called

Representative Burney motioned to limit the Q&A to 10 minutes.

Seconded.

Representative Smalenberger asked if they could do 2 minutes per person.

Seconded.

Representative Burney accepted as a friendly amendment.

Speaker Brady said the motion was to limit Q&A to 10 minutes but opening statements would stay at 5 minutes.
Representative Guzek said he was a junior majoring in economics and public policy. He said he walked into Congress when he was elected in October with advocacy and engagement priorities. He said Congress could have impact on campus, he mentioned the LGBTQ center, and fund new groups across campus. He said there was a music festival going on Saturday that he was proud to support. He said he was proud to write legislation with unanimous support about Alert Carolina. He said this was the kind of advocacy he would continue if elected. He said they need get out and engage the campus directly through the public commend period to initiate dialogue, talk to students in the Pit, hold more forums, and expand social media. He said he helped triple the membership of a campus organization this past year as President and he would bring those same ideas and passion to Congress. He said a lack of trust and professional happened too often and personal disagreements have happened. He said he was ready for the task and expanding engagement and restoring trust in each other. He said he would be proud to partner with Speaker Brady and serve as the Speaker Pro Tempore for the 95th Congress.

Representative McClelland congratulated the new members and the returning members for being reelected. He said a lot of people on campus do not know how much Student Congress can help student life and the Speaker Pro Tempore has a lot of influence along every step of the way because they serve as a member on every committee. He said he was the former Vice Chair of the Rules and Judiciary Committee and has the experience with that committee. He said he made it a point to go to other committee meetings as well. He said he has the experience and clear goal for all of them, especially the Oversight committee with handling fee audits. He said something that was necessary for the Speaker Pro Tempore was knowledge on how to move the agenda forward and that he has always been respected. He said he stands for what he believes in and has made it a point to talk about the issues at hand, not personal characteristics. He said all voices matter here.

Speaker Brady said they would enter the lightening round of questions.

Representative Smalenberger said this question was not his own. He asked them to talk about student fees and how they are being used and what they would do in their position to address them.

Representative McClelland said he would like to work with the Oversight and Advocacy committee and look at the childcare fee/athletic fee to make sure they were needed. He mentioned the ASG fee and said they should make sure it is providing maximum advocacy, as well as the RESPC fee. He said he was not okay with increasing any fees at the moment.

Representative Guzek said he could not speak on student fees specifically but he was looking forward on working with Representative Root and Student Body President Lambden on them. He agreed with points that Representative McClelland made and was opposed to raising the vast majority of fees but wanted to hear the arguments for raising them. He said given the economic climate, the last thing they needed to do was raise those fees. He said the biggest issue was the ASG fee, which is a $1 fee from every student and was not effectively used to lobby for students. He said 50% of it goes towards personal stipends, which was not the kind of ASG they need.
Representative Best asked them to talk about their experience on each of the committees and their vision for those committees.

Representative Guzek said he was originally running for Rules and Judiciary Chair but his concerns for advocacy and engagement were more related to the Speaker Pro Tempore. He said he has an interest in being responsive to what students need and making sure they actively listen to those needs. He said he pushed the Alert Carolina resolution through the Rules and Judiciary Committee that would make the Safety and Security Committee review all warnings. He said he would like to see the Oversight committee moving into equally paying attention on focusing on engagement of the campus and getting out into the Pit and starting a conversation. For finance, he said he was least familiar with it but that he would be thrilled to either work with Representatives Best or Winters. He said Finance would face challenges and have more organizations coming. He said they have to make sure funds are given out to organizations that need it. He said they need reforms of the Student ode.

Representative McClelland said he wants to continue what they have been doing on the Rules and Judiciary Committee. He said they were all strong advocates of more transparency in the public comment period. He said he had been to a few meetings with Oversight and chaired a select committee on ASG reform. He said he has been to ASG meetings and was going to be a bigger part of the Oversight Committee. He said it was great to get out in the Pit and engage with students but he said they also need to find ways to reach out to graduate students. He said they have to make some choices they might not want to make but they have to make sure it’s efficient and going out to the most students.

Representative Stelpflug asked how each candidate wanted to improve communication.

Representative McClelland said he has sent out emails to most people so they know how they can get into contact with him. He said he wants to make sure he facilitates communication between members. He said he didn’t think there would be a problem communication across the branches if he were elected.

Representative Guzek said he has talked about this with Speaker Brady, especially between the leadership of Congress that led to a breakdown of good relations and productively at the beginning of the last session. He said they talked about weekly meetings. He said he was happy to organize a social gathering in the 94th session and that he would do it again. He said they need to see more of that and outside committees so they could establish relationships. He said people should come first over bills. He said that Student Body President Lambden has been a great communicator with Congress so far and he wants to make sure that continues.

Representative Burney motioned to move into a vote.

Seconded.

Consent was called.
After a ballot vote, Representative Guzek was elected as the Speaker Pro Tempore of the 95th Session with 21 votes. Representative Guzek received 12 votes and there was 1 abstention.

**Finance Chair Election**

Speaker Brady asked Speaker Pro Tempore Brady to preside over the election of the Finance Chair.

Representative Burney motioned to limit debate like the last election.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Comparato said the Finance Chair has a lot of things to cover and motioned to have debate for 15 minutes.

Representative Burney accepted as a friendly amendment.

Speaker Brady motioned to nominate Representative Brittany Best.

Representative Best accepted.

Representative Root motioned to nominate Representative Conor Winters.

Representative Winters accepted.

There was a motion to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Winters said he hopes to avoid the pettiness and ridiculousness of the last session and wanted to echo that they are friends before they were Congress members. He said he accepted the nomination because he sat on the Finance Committee this past year and he thought a lot could be improved. He said it has not been working as effectively and efficiently as it could be. He said students and listen for hours on end and they barely make quorum. He said they have to get dedicated and hard working people on finance and have people consider that their Tuesday nights are just not going to be free. He said he wanted to structure it better and have 12 minutes per groups and 2 minutes per treasurer like they did in annual budget. He said they had a surplus at the end. He said people struggled to make quorum at annual budget and their Chair was even absent for most of it. He said they should never have to tell organizations that they only give out $27 for printing and publicity for each event. He said it should be more straightforward. He said they had a poor understanding of Title V and that it was the responsibility of the Finance Chair to make sure they didn’t. He said he would be a strong on SFAC and SFAS. He said he joined Student
Congress because he wanted his voice to be heard. He said members of SFAC shouldn’t be missing 1/3rd of those meetings as the previous Finance Chair did. He said his overarching goal was to make Congress more productive, less petty, and a better place to work.

Representative Best thanked everyone who came here and spoke for her. She felt honored and humbled for the outpouring of support. She said moving forward, they don’t even have a treasurer right now and as a stand in for treasurer, she was the Finance Chair this past session and was on Finance Committee before that. She said she served on SFAC and SFAS. She said she was the only candidate running with those experiences. She said she knew what to expect and she didn’t know where the missing 1/3rd of meetings was coming from. She said she missed a few meetings because she had the stomach flu. She said she took it very seriously. She said she has seen that administrators on SFAC and SFAS are willing to listen. She said that she was adamant that graduate students were consulted. She said they do need to be more open with student organizations. She said she asked if they could get a listserv for next year, which could bridge the communication gap they have. She said she wants to have an orientation for treasurers also and that she was very open to meet with anyone that wanted to.

Representative Smalenberger said they were both outstanding candidates. He said this was his first year in Congress and on the Finance Committee. He said that he has learned a lot of Representative Best and that he thought Representative Winters was levelheaded and very clear. He asked how they could change the fact that student groups load their requests thinking that Finance will just cut stuff out anyway.

Representative Best said they were doing their best to make up for the lack of information. She said they have to understand that they have to make cuts and they have to prove themselves to be more open to them. She said she understood that the meetings were really long and said if they couldn’t be there until 11 PM then this committee was not for them. She said you have to be a special kind of person. She said she was open to hearing limiting debate.

Representative Winters said he appreciated it when groups made a good request but that there was a lack of understanding of the finance process. He said the treasurer’s test needs to be updated and there should be some sort of manual. He said he wants the manual to include the process for outside fundraising and work to improve the funding portal. He said he overall wants to make meeting less long and more efficient.

Representative Burney read a statement from organization treasurer Hetali Lodaya who said she was happy with all the interactions she had with Representative Best. She said she was always good with responding to emails and has been consistent and fair. Representative Burney asked what their biggest accomplishment in the 94th session was and how that prepared them to be Chair.

Representative Winters said his biggest accomplishment was the annual budget. He said they struggled with quorum and that the Chair was not there for half of day 2. He said he was sick the night before but he still went and go through the request. He said they ended up with a surplus that will go terminal appropriations. He said he was proud of how diligently they worked.
Representative Best said that the scheduling for annual budget was down by herself and former Treasurer Ghosh when she had an outstanding business school application. She said she got in and her orientation was the same weekend as annual budget. She said she would not be able to attend Kenan Flagler if she missed the first day. She said she was most proud of her relationships with the organization treasurers. She said her main job was to advocate for groups on campus and help them pursue their passions and goals. She said she hopes to go above and beyond this next session.

Representative Biyala asked how they would feel about possibly being the Finance Chair and Student Body Treasurer for 3 weeks.

Representative Winters said he hoped they would not resort to that.

Representative Best said she did not feel comfortable speculating on that tonight because she thought he would pass last time.

Representative McClelland read a message from the treasurer of the Vietnamese Student Organization. He said that he did not know how to do anything and that Representative Best was with them every step of the way. He said she responded to email promptly and found her wonderful and that they should keep her because she is the best. Representative McClelland asked how they would keep up the relationships with the organization treasurers.

Representative Best said that the treasurers she worked with this past year seemed to be happy and said she appreciated them and recognized their passions and missions so they could make Carolina an amazing experience. She said she would continue those relationships and reach out to make those connections.

Representative Winters said a lot of good could be done for organizations on the Finance Committee. He said he was running so there would be a stronger connection between the Chair and the organization treasurers. He said a lot of them seem lost and they only got on track because former Treasurer Ghosh took them out into the hall and fixed a lot of their funding requests. He said he wanted to increase office hours to 3 days a week for 2 hours and that he would use his email more consistently and quickly. He said a lot of people came up to him and didn’t know they were being heard beforehand. He said he would help make the process more efficient.

Representative Root motioned to extend debate by 5 minutes.

Seconded.

There were objections and Speaker Brady asked for the speaking order.

Speaker Pro Tempore Guzek listed the speakers.

Representative Comparato made a motion to limit debate to 6 more minutes.

There were objections.
Representative Comparato said she raised her hand while they were introducing themselves and no one was added to the list.

Representative Guzek said that was correct.

Representative Comparato asked for 6 more minutes.

Speaker Brady said they adopted a speaking time limit.

Representative Smalenberger said the Finance Committee Chair is responsible for a ton of money and they should get the 6 more minutes for questions.

After a vote, division was called, and the motion failed with 16 nos and 9 ays.

There was a motion to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Root objected and said he wanted more time.

After a vote, the ays had it with 3 nos from Representatives Comparato, Niver, and Root.

There was a 5 minutes recess.

After recess, Representative Best was elected to be the Finance Chair of the 95th Session of Congress with 22 votes. Representative Winters received 12 votes.

**Rules and Judiciary Chair Election**

Representative Burney made a motion to limit debate to 10 minutes.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Burney motioned to nominate Representative Peter McClelland.

Representative McClelland accepted.

Representative Comparato motioned to nominate Representative Stelpflug.

Representative Stelpflug accepted.

There was a motion to close the floor.

Seconded.
Consent was called.

Representative Stelpflug said he was a freshman majoring in Peace, War, and Defense. He said he came in during the special election and that he wanted to chair this committee because he believes their primary duty is to hear bills that affect the Student Code and promote the interests of other committees, other branches, and the student body as a whole. He said he would always be willing to work with anyone on a bill that would affect the laws of governance. He said he has always been a procedurally minded person because of Congress and his involvement in mock United Nations for 4 years. He said he has worked with an amazing collection of members and wants to keep the tradition of being open and honest. He said he hoped to sit down and talk with new and old members about their goals and vision for Congress whether or not he was elected. He said he hopes to promote communication between all committees and branch of governments, constituents, and the student body. He said he always looked forward to talking and working with them. He said there were a lot of issues to be tackled and that they needed to rework the role of independent agencies. He said he was looking forward to working with them and asked for their vote.

Representative McClelland said he presided over the Rules and Judiciary Committee many times and has had very few issues with the committee. He said he helped rewrite the constitution on the constitutional subcommittee. He said he has a lot of experience with the committee and would appreciate their vote.

Representative Smalenberger said he was bugged by the petty differences that affected people’s actions. He said people that came into Congress to videotape people in a certain way bugged him. He said it was done in a negative way. He said it was something to be addressed. He said they were open to the public but that 4 or 5 cameras could be directed at 1 or 2 individuals as an attack or to make them feel uncomfortable. He asked how they felt about allowing limitless cameras being allowed in the standing rules.

Representative McClelland said he could imagine where people were coming from but that they had to follow the NC statute for open meetings laws. He said there were very few restrictions on who could record a conversation. He said there wouldn’t be much feasibility in changing that.

Representative Stelpflug said it was regrettable that some people used open meetings laws for less admirable purposes but that more people used their cameras for legitimate purposes. He said he would not want to exclude them. He said he has never tried to deny what he said or take things out context to make clips out of conversation. He said maybe it was something the Ethics Committee could address but that he agreed with Representative McClelland.

Representative Burney yielded time to former Rules and Judiciary Chair Travis Crayton.

Mr. Crayton encouraged them to find a new room to have Congress in so they could designate an area for the media. He asked about the existing structure of the branches and what their ideas were to improve it.
Representative Stelpflug said he could not agree more than Gardner 309 was an awful place. He said he read his report and said it was detailed and had some great suggestions on reorganizing some of the independent agencies. He said he liked the selection board positions and the Department of the Treasury given how serious the requirements of the treasury are. He said a lot of the relationships need to be better defined. He said they need to make it more clear the distinction for independent agencies.

Representative McClelland said he agreed but that he wants to increase ties between Oversight Committee and the new Carolina Leadership Cooperation Committee that was created. He said having those ties would be a good idea.

Representative Hardy asked them to catalogue specific things they have done in the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

Representative McClelland said he introduced a bill to update the non-discrimination policy so it would be in line with the constitution. He said he was a vocal member and said there were very few controversial bills that he didn’t voice an opinion on.

Representative Stelpflug said the last thing he did was introduce a bill that amended the standing rules in the way they recorded votes. He changed it so it would be clearer in the minutes. He said he changed the composition of the selection committee and worked with many members to increase congressional representation. He said he co-sponsored bills and spoke out about them, including Speaker Pro Tempore Guzek’s Alert Carolina bill. He said he was very active in introducing amendments on the massive Ethics laws in order to cut out unclear parts and introduced an amendment to improve the right of reply.

Speaker Brady said they had 2 minutes left.

Chair Best asked what two qualifications they uniquely possessed to be the Rules and Judiciary Chair.

Representatives said his willingness and eagerness to meet with every member of Congress and constantly offering his opinion. He said this was instrumental for someone to Chair the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

Representative McClelland said as the Rules and Judiciary Vice Chair, he was familiar with the committee and knows all the standing rules, the Code, and the constitution.

Speaker Pro Tempore Guzek thanked Representative Stelpflug for being a crucial player in putting the Alert Carolina bill together. He asked them what distinguished the Rules and Judiciary Committee from other committees.

Representative McClelland said they affect the student constitution and code, which is how their entire student government is set up. He said that decides how efficient they will be.

Representative Stelpflug that the Rules and Judiciary Committee regulates the rules, appointments, and laws that govern every committee and branch of student government. He said it was important to bring in every voice in the student government.
Representative Smalenberger motioned to move on to a vote.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

After a ballot vote, Representative Stelpflug was elected to be the Rules and Judiciary Chair of the 95th session with 16 votes. Representative McClelland received 15 votes.

**Oversight and Advocacy Chair Election**

There was a motion to limit debate to 10 minutes.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Corbett asked for 5 minutes.

Representative Burney accepted as a friendly amendment.

Chair Best motioned to nominate Representative Jocelyn Burney.

Representative Burney accepted.

Chair Stelpflug motioned to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Chair Stelpflug motioned to elect Representative Burney as the Oversight and Advocacy Chair for the 95th session by acclamation.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

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

**Ethics**

Chair Clark motioned to nominate Chair Jocelyn Burney to serve on the Ethics Committee.

Speaker Brady said a Chair could not serve on the Ethics committee.
Chair Burney motioned to nominate Representative Ivy Hardy.

Representative Hardy accepted.

Chair Best motioned to nominate Representative Peter McClelland.

Representative McClelland accepted.

Chair Stelpflug motioned to nominate Representative Kizzmekia Corbett.

Representative Corbett accepted.

Chair Burney motioned to nominate Representative Kim Niver.

Representative Niver accepted.

Speaker Pro Tempore Guzek motioned to nominate Representative Winters.

Representative Winters accepted.

Parliamentarian Windsor said they could be on Ethics and another committee.

Chair Clark motioned to nominate Representative Tollini.

Representative Tollini accepted.

Chair Burney said the maximum number of members is 5.

Chair Stelpflug motioned to nominate Representative Andrew Lucas.

Representative Lucas accepted.

Chair Burney moved to close the floor.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Representative Corbett said she felt that the Ethics of Congress was important to her. She said she was a member of the graduate student attorney general staff and would be interested in making sure the verdict was fair. She said she didn’t include personal likes or dislikes into her decision.

Representative Niver said she tries to give an honest view of the issues. She said she would give insight on making it a smoother process overall.

Representative Winters said he was not on Ethics before but that he had experience with a 4 or 5 hour-long meeting. He said he wanted to be a strong voice for reasonable Ethics.
Representative McClelland said he was on the Ethics committee briefly but had to step down when he was elected to chair the ASG select committee. He said he looked forward to going back and making sure everything was in line with the student code.

Representative Tollini said she was new and did not have a voting record. She said she would be a fair and unbiased person to make decisions.

Representative Hardy said she was a fresh face so she would be impartial. She believes in being fair and using common sense and being straightforward. She said she would always be willing to ask questions and asked to have everyone's vote.

Representative Lucas said he was a 3rd year pharmacy student and said he would like to be on the Ethics committee because he could have an open mind.

There was a motion to move into a voting period.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

Speaker Brady said to write down 4 names.

After a ballot vote, Representatives Corbett, McClelland, Niver, and Tollini were elected to serve on the Ethics Committee of the 95th session. Representative Corbett received 17 votes, Representative McClelland received 17 votes, Representative Niver received 16 votes, Representative Tollini received 15 votes, Representative Hardy received 13 votes, Representative Lucas received 13 votes, and Representative Winters received 12 votes.

**Other Committees:**

Chair Best said in Finance they sit in a room and stare at a computer screen and ask organizations why they need money. She promised they would be there from 7 to 11. She said it would be a big time commitment but if they could do it, finance would be happy to have them.

Chair Stelpflug said they had relatively short meetings that could be an hour long but longer if there was a controversial bill. He said the main thing was hearings bills, resolutions, and nominations. He said if they were interested in the Student Code or legislative procedural matters, then the Rules and Judiciary Committee was for them.

Chair Burney said they were the most flexible committee that tended to be shorter but they do outside work out of the meetings. She said they occasionally audited fees and have an online petition page where they choose which issues they want to address and care about.

Speaker Brady said to move into different areas of the room based on what committee they wanted to be on.
Members of Finance: John Caison, Stephen Deal, Ivy Hardy, Prerak Patel, Michael Smalenberger, Harrison Touby, Max Williams, and Conor Winters.


Members of Rules and Judiciary: Brittany Clark, Andrew Lucas, Peter McClelland, Veeral Saraiya, Laura Tollini, and Bennett Vass.

There was a motion to elect members by acclamation.

Seconded.

Consent was called.

**First Reading and Reference to Committee of Bills and Resolutions**

Chair Stelpflug motioned to suspend the rules and hear Student Body President’s nomination for Student Body Treasurer.

Seconded.

Chair Burney motioned to suspend SCR-109-005, SCR-109-006, SCR-113-001, and SCR-113-002 to be specific about which rules they were suspending.

Speaker Brady said it would suspend the rules so they would not have to hear this in committee first.

Consent was called.

**SCB-95-001 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE STUDENT BODY TREASURER**

Student Body President Lambden said he was coming before them again with the same person as last time because he believed that Mr. Farley was the best person to fulfill this position. He said he was here to back him up and answer any questions he can to get rid of their concerns. He thanked for hanging around so long.

Mr. Farley congratulated the new members of the 95th. He said he was a junior from Charlotte and apologized to the 94th session for appearing to be a bit frazzled at times. He said he believed it to be a reaction to the line of questions he was receiving because he didn’t think they were relevant to the role. He said he was glad they reelected Chair Best for the Finance committee. He said he would be taking a step back from the Finance committee in comparison to former Treasurer Ghosh, who took an active role in Finance because of the inexperience on the committee. He said that was not how things have been done historically. He said the first thing he would be doing was to make sure he was advocating for students and financial aid. He said he would advocate for graduate student tuition and stipend increases. He said he planned on doing well in chairing SFAC and sitting on SFAS.
He said just because he did not sit on SFAC before doesn’t mean he is unknowledgeable about fees. He said he wanted to look at the Student Enrichment Fee and the Sonja Stone Scholarship Fee that was only available to undergraduate students. He said the Safety and Security Fee needs to be looked at and made sure it’s being used properly. He said he would be meeting with administrators on Friday. He thanked Student Body President Lambden and former Treasurer Gosh for her kind words at the beginnings of the meeting. He stood for queries.

Chair Stelpflug said when he first Mr. Farley was being re-nominated; he was disturbed that the Student Body President would ignore the first decision of Congress. He said he reevaluated his position considering the gravity of the situation and said it was regrettable that this was the only way to deal with it. He said he understood where they were coming from. He said this was the only option they had at the moment and that it was necessary.

Chair Best thanked everyone for electing her as Finance Chair. She said she could not think of someone who was easier to work with and could get the job done than Mr. Farley. She said she told him before he was picked that she didn’t know if she would get Treasurer because he couldn’t have it because he was so qualified. She said she supported him 100%.

Representative Touby said he was not a member of the previous Congress but read articles about it in the DTH. He said there was a sense of urgency. He asked his plans to increase feedback and interaction with the student body.

Mr. Farley said he worked with the Cooper administration throughout the tuition process and he was in charge of organization outreach and getting feedback through a series of forums and mass emails. He said he was open to any other ideas to get the word out.

Representative Smalenberger said he voted for Mr. Farley last time because he thought he was well qualified. He said it was disrespectful for the Student Body President to simply re-nominate someone that the previous Congress said they did not want. He said it was extremely inappropriate but that he doesn’t want that negatively affect the decision and said he plans on voting for him again.

Chair Burney said she did not speak on Mr. Farley’s behalf in the last meeting but that he was smart and quick. She said just because he didn’t have the titles didn’’t mean he couldn’t do the job effectively. She yielded to Mr. Crayton.

Mr. Crayton said he never had the chance to meet Mr. Farley but that he sat on SFAC in Chair Burney’s place. He said there was a learning curve involved and that Mr. Farley already had experience from shadowing Ms. Ghosh. He said he had no concerns about him learning quickly and that the previous SFAC was one of the most productive in a long time.

Speaker Pro Tempore Guzek said he had his doubts but that tonight he demonstrated his familiarity with fees and the interest he has shown to address to issues. He expressed his strong support and moved to the previous question.

Seconded.
After a roll call vote, Full Congress unanimously passed Mr. Farley to be Student Body Treasurer.

**Notices and Announcements**

Speaker Brady said he would send out the agendas.

**Adjournment**
After a roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 PM with one no from Speaker Brady and one abstention from Representative Winters.