The External Affairs committee met yesterday afternoon. The following board members were in attendance: Dennis Burgard, Michael Lee, Fidget Kidd, Maurice Smith, and Yousry Sayed. As acting chair Mr. Burgard called the meeting to order and read the required ethics statement. No conflicts were identified. The minutes from the July 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for university advancement, provided a development update. So far in the first quarter of our fiscal year, the university has received $2.4 million in gifts and commitments. He also announced the university’s endowment has surpassed $100 million as of June 2019. The division has also facilitated an image study, in partnership with VisionPoint Marketing out of Raleigh, to explore perceptions about the image of UNCW among alumni, donors, friends and both prospective and current students. The study will conclude in November. Findings from the survey will be used to help craft messaging for the campaign which is set to launch in 2020. Next, a video message featuring a travel award established by Al and Anita Schnog was shown. Mr. Schnog, a Holocaust survivor, created this opportunity for students engaged in research related to the Holocaust. This gift is one of the many examples of how donors can impact the UNCW student experience.

Mark Lanier, assistant to the chancellor, provided a legislative update. The governor’s veto of the budget was overridden in the House but not in the Senate. Various “mini bills,” including components of the proposed budget have been passed into law. It is anticipated that a “mini bill” may be considered to adopt items related to UNC, except for salaries and capital, in HB966. This bill includes funding for enrollment growth in the second year of the biennium, $8 million for completing renovations of Dobo Hall, repair and renovation funding, additional funding for the lab school, and carryforward expanded to 5% for four years. The bill would also allow for salary flexibility to be restored, additions to the faculty recruitment and retention fund, and additions to the health benefits plan. Senate leadership has indicated it wants to conclude the session by October 31.

Jimmy Bass, director of athletics, reported to the committee about a sports broadcasting contract with FloSports. The four-year agreement with the CAA and FloSports will facilitate the broadcast over 300 CAA events including 90 men’s basketball games, 50 women’s basketball games, 50 football and 110 other events including CAA championship events. Subscribers can
pay $12.95 a month or $95.88 a year for access. The subscription allows access to all FloSports content - not just CAA events. The arrangement will generate revenue of approximately $4.3 million over the 4 years in support of CAA efforts to bolster national exposure. Mr. Bass also announced there will be 11 basketball games nationally televised this year.

Lastly, Mr. Smith made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award. Ms. Kidd seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously for closed session. The group discussed the two items and voted to go back into open session. In open session the committee approved two items as presented to take the full board. The committee meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.