The External Affairs committee met on Thursday, July 16 at 3 p.m. The following board members were present Dennis Burgard, Carlton Fisher, Michael Lee, Gidget Kidd, Yousry Sayed, and Maurice Smith. As chair Mr. Fisher called the meeting to order and read the required ethics statement. No conflicts were identified. The minutes from the January 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Mark Lanier, assistant to the chancellor, provided a legislative report. The federal CARES Act will provide UNCW with $10.6M for student and institutional needs. During the COVID special session in April, the NC General Assembly provided $4M to UNCW. During the 2020 short session, the General Assembly funded UNC enrollment growth, building reserves, and repairs/renovations. UNCW should receive $12.8M enrollment growth, $2.75M for Veterans Hall operations/maintenance, and $1.99M for repairs/renovations. Several requested policy changes occurred, but most funding is non-recurring. For 2021 we are requesting it to be recurring to pay for positions and other uses that are continuing.

Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for university advancement, called on Andrea Weaver, interim chief communications officer, who shared the “Best for the Nest” website which shares the steps faculty, staff, students and visitors are taking on our campus community during the current public health crisis. Eddie reported the university has received more than $15.9 million in gifts and commitments this fiscal year. He announced the public campaign launch will be delayed from November 2020 to January 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns. The launch will include a special communications and marketing plan executed based on the VisionPoint image study findings, as well as enhanced events and promotion of the campaign theme. He shared that over $150,000 from the UNCW Student Emergency Fund has been distributed to student adversely affected by COVID-19. This fiscal year, 31 privately funded scholarships were established. Advancement is also finalizing a new 3-year strategic plan, incorporating programmatic and philanthropic opportunities to strengthen UNCW’s commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity including a new diversity giving portal.

Tiffany Tucker, senior associate athletics director, reported that Dottie Hampton is the new Head Indoor/Beach Volleyball Coach. Sports are building flexible schedules and limiting overnight travel. The CAA and member universities are working on a structure to allow for all athletes to participate in CAA Championships. The baseball championship will still be hosted here at UNCW, as well as the Women’s Soccer South Championship. Student Athletes’ cumulative GPA last year was 3.1 with 60 students holding a 4.0. Academic progress is well above the national average. Athletics is spotlighting student athlete alumni who are working the front lines in healthcare during the COVID-19 crisis. Athletics leadership has actively participated in the Fall Implementation Work Group and Chancellor’s Return to Campus Task Force.

Lastly, the committee voted on one closed session action items and we would like to bring that item before the board in closed session. Mr. Chair that concludes my report.