IN THE STUDENT CONGRESS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

SCB-94-166

A BILL TO ENCOURAGE ACCESSIBILITY IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

12 JANUARY 2013 INTRODUCED BY SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE BRADY
12 JANUARY 2013 REFERRED TO THE RULES & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 2013 REPORTED FAVORABLY TO FULL CONGRESS
15 JANUARY 2013 PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR
22 JANUARY 2013 PASSED BY FULL CONGRESS

WHEREAS, official records of Student Government are public record;

WHEREAS, Student Government should not be a hindrance to providing access to public records;

WHEREAS, electronic outlets are available to maintain Student Government records.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL THAT:

Section 1. Title I, Chapter 1, Section 103 is amended to read as follows:

Section 103. Records of Meetings
   A. Full and accurate minutes, including a record of all votes taken, shall be taken at all Student Government meetings. The minutes of all meetings shall be public record, unless public inspection would obstruct the purpose of the closed session. Minutes of all meetings of Student Government shall be published to the Student Government website no later than seven (7) days following the meeting.
   B. The minutes of all Student Congress meetings shall be published to the Student Congress website no later than seven days after the meeting approval by the Student Congress.

Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

Done by the Student Congress on this 22 day of January, 2013.

Paige Carpenter
Speaker, 94th Student Congress

And made law on this _____ day of ____________________ 2013

Will Lievensoll,
Student Body President

VETO

SCB-94-166
Certify correct and proper by
Signature: Speaker SBP
Student Congress Members,

While I believe the intentions behind this bill are good and transparency is something to strive towards, I chose to veto this bill after discussion with my executive branch officer team for the following reasons:

1. The definition of “Meetings of Student Government” is far too vague. It is unclear whether this would just be cabinet and EBO meetings or would extend to smaller discussions among executive branch officers, meetings of cabinet committees, meetings of EBO members with administrators etc. I believe such a vague definition would leave my team and I far too open to lawsuit because there would inevitably be some “meetings” we would not deem significant enough to note, but someone else would consider to qualify as a meeting. This definition gives no clear explanation of what constitutes a meeting.

2. On a weekly basis executive branch officers may each have 10-15 scheduled meetings and countless other smaller, more informal meetings with other members of student government and other student organizations. We simply do not have the time and resources to take minutes during each discussion and then post them online. We do not have a paid clerk to take minutes and therefore it is unreasonable to expect us to maintain such meticulous notes for the duration of our terms.

3. In previous years there was a paid Executive Secretary for Executive Branch. Their responsibility was to keep all records of the Student Government, much like the Student Congress Clerk. However, this position has since been removed and the Student Body Secretary has been given the responsibility of keeping all records of the Student Government. The stipend afforded to the Student Body Secretary has since been removed and therefore it seems unreasonable to expect an unpaid Student Body Secretary to take on so much more work than was expected of a paid position in the past.

For all these reasons I ask that you all vote to not overrule this veto and instead draft a new bill that specifically outlines that “Notes from all Student Government cabinet meetings and Student Government executive branch officer meetings shall be published to the Student Government website no later than seven (7) days following the meeting.”

I am sorry I cannot be in the congress meeting to speak for my veto but as I have stated previously I have a class conflict I cannot get out of during this time. If you have questions or wish to further discuss this with me feel free to email me at wleimenstoll@gmail.com, call/text me at 336-402-5704, or set up a time to talk in person. I’d be happy to talk with you!

Will Leimenstoll
Student Body President
UNC-CH Class of 2013
IN THE STUDENT CONGRESS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

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B. The minutes of all Student Congress meetings shall be published to the Student Congress website no later than seven days after the meeting, approval by the Student Congress.

Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

Done by the Student Congress on this 22 day of January, 2013.

Paige Comparato,
Speaker, 94th Student Congress

And vetoed on this 30 day of January, 2013

Paige Comparato,

And veto overridden by the Student Congress on the 05 day of February, 2013

Paige Comparato,

SCB-94-166
Certify correct and proper by

Speaker SBP
Speaker, 94th Student Congress