The Joint Governance Council  
of the  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Agenda  
17 October, 5:00 pm  
Union Room 3102

1) Call to Order  
a. Chair Shriver called the meeting to order at 5:01.

2) Call to Roll

3) Approval of the previous minutes  
a. A Previous minutes were approved unanimously.

4) Public Comment Period  
a. No one is present for the public comment period.

5) Presentation from Darrell Jeter, Director of Emergency Management & Planning  
a. Introductions of USG and GPSF attendees, as well as presenters.  
   i. Darrell Jeter, Matthew Mosey, Randy Young.  
b. Alert Carolina System & Campus Emergencies  
   i. Emergency notification system is used to immediately notify the campus community of significant emergencies, dangerous situations, or immediate threats unless issuing a notification would cause further distress and throw off those attempting to remedy the situation  
      1. Alert Types  
         a. Emergency notifications - sirens  
            i. Armed and dangerous person(s)  
            ii. Major chemical spill  
            iii. Tornado warning  
         b. Crime Alerts (formerly Timely Warnings)  
            i. Clery Act reportable crime threat alerts  
            ii. Mostly alert trends and series of threats, not specific situations or as imminent as emergency notifications.  
         c. Informational Notifications  
            i. Updates to crime alerts  
            ii. Anything that does not fall into either above category but requires the attention of campus residents and faculty.  
         d. Adverse Weather  
            i. Tornado watches or severe thunderstorm warnings, or winter closings or delays  
      2. Have several methods of communication to push out these four types of notifications to get them to the appropriate audiences.  
         a. Email, outdoor sirens, text, alert carolina website, UNC website banner, mobile apps, twitter, facebook.

3) General Roles and Responsibilities  
a. System Oversight - Emergency Mgt & Planning - notification
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- system managers, training, updates
  - Technical Administrator - ITS
  - System Operators - ITS Control Center & DPS ECC Dispatchers
  - Content Developers - Media Relations (PIOs)
  - System Policy Group - AC Advisory Team

ii. When notifications must go out, these teams convene afterwards to review the situation, how it was handled, and how to proceed in the future and remedy any consequences.

1. Depending on the size of the emergency, the number of teams and groups is increased or stays relatively within the UNC Emergency Response Officials.

iii. Process of Activation

1. Incident/Emergency Occurs → Reported to campus police or 911
2. Campus police respond → authorizes/directs activation of AC
3. System Operator Activates AC → siren, email, or text, etc.
4. All Clear Issued → Campus operations are restored to normal.

iv. Closing points

1. Campus safety is a collective effort.
2. Ensure registration to receive Alert Carolina text alerts.
3. Help promote individual preparedness.
   a. Contact Information: Darrell Jeter
      i. dhjeter@unc.edu
      ii. 919-962-5729

c. Questions

i. How connected and engaged is the Emergency Mgt & Planning with the community?

1. Engaged and connected with ongoing meetings and communication from the local to the federal level.
   a. Have a special group where intelligence is shared and received for weather-specific emergencies and conditions.
   b. Must collaborate with transit services, so collaboration is key to much of the Alert Carolina system operations.
      i. Regularly meeting face-to-face with these relevant parties.

2. Lag-time for weather issues: how efficiently can these alerts go out?
   a. As soon as the weather groups notice and decide the intensity of the weather-related issue, the notifications are immediately put out.

ii. Can you go into detail regarding the Condition 1 flash-flooding decision-making following Hurricane Florence?
The amount of rain and the threatening systems that were developing were not recognized by experts quickly enough to notice the tornado and flooding warnings.

a. Under such conditions, collaboration is lessened due to extreme difficulty, that is why Chapel Hill Transit made decisions separately from the rest of the campus.

b. Hurricane Michael was less predictable, and therefore collaboration was harder to facilitate.

2. There was a lack of information sent through the system regarding flash flooding after the rain had already been creating issues, affecting graduate and professional students notably more so than undergraduates.

a. Feedback was noted.

i. Information is prioritized in the Alert Carolina system, and a decision is made when the system has been well informed.

ii. Panic when there is no clear and present danger must be avoided; over-caution is not the goal.

1. More information must go out to graduate and professional students, that has been noted.

iii. Lack of timeliness: updates later than promised cause a lack of faith in UNC Alert Carolina systems.

1. Specifically for Florence, there was an incident when an update was promised at 2pm but did not arrive until 8pm.

a. There have been times when the decision-making goes longer than expected and collaboration runs longer, affecting the efficiency of out-puting messages and notifications.

b. Comment on efficiency has been noted.

i. Limitations of text notifications are followed, but advice for more notifications allowing for this information have been noted.

iv. Senator from Pennsylvania: Are travel times, especially for those who live out-of-state, factored into Alert Carolina decision-making?

1. The main focus of Alert Carolina is the campus itself.

2. Student Affairs is a constant advocate of punctuality for notifications so that international and out-of-state students are accommodated properly.

a. Sometimes campus and forecasting conditions do not allow a decision for notifications to be made with surety; retractions of notifications is avoided at all costs.

i. Therefore more ambiguous messages are favored over overly cautious messages.
b. Make decisions based on personal travel, not based on entirety of campus. This becomes student responsibility.

v. How does the activation of adverse weather notifications shown to include people and positions outside of those listed in the presentation (such as a field supervisor) work in tangent with the process indicated in the presentation?
   1. These operators must receive permission from someone in the system to be able to use this activation; these operators are “feet on the ground” for the system.
      a. Collaboration with these groups helps to facilitate these quick decisions.

vi. Any future plans for the system?
   1. Technological updates and plans
      a. Firstly, it is looking at what students and faculty actually use and will notice. As times change, Alert Carolina attempts to evolve, such as the inclusion of social media.
      b. Working to include digital signage that would show Alert Carolina updates.
      c. If there are any devices students and faculty use that are not listed, please inform Alert Carolina to help their systems evolve.
   2. What to do in an environment without phones or computers, like classrooms?
      a. Currently being worked on; feedback is encouraged.
      b. Do not want to rely on the hope that others will inform such a class that an alert has been sent out.

vii. How many students have adopted the text message alerts?
   1. High percentage (~80%)
   2. Some parents have enrolled their number instead of their students.
   3. Encouragement to continue to persuade more students and parents to adopt the direct notifications.

viii. Hurricane Florence rescheduling issues: what was the intent for the days before the storm hit directly, when classes were cancelled but no weather had arrived?
   1. It was to allow students to evacuate and to reduce traffic on campus.
      a. Forecasting was completely off, and Florence missed campus entirely, then Monday was worse than expected.

ix. Is there an intention to expand service out to counties where students and faculty reside that is not Chapel Hill (Durham, Chatham, Cary)?
   1. Text notifications are best for these locations, because they will be received anywhere in the world.
      a. Are they location specific?
i. Alert Carolina’s focus is the impact on campus; it is not within the jurisdiction of this service, and may incite panic when it is unintended.

2. Preparedness and safety is the main goal of the service, no matter location. More information of the services and promotion of the services will be undertaken.
   a. Let Alert Carolina know how Student Government wants to proceed in this spread of information.

x. Advice to Alert Carolina: please provide the links to these services and notification text messages online.

xi. Clarification: when a time is stated for when an update will be sent out through a notification, that is the goal and intended time for when the message is sent out, circumstances permitting.
   1. If uncertainty exists at the intended time, why not send out a message describing this uncertainty?

xii. Is there detailed information for weather safety in each specific building on campus, and where does one find this information?
   1. Emergency Action Plans → Emergency Action Contacts address the specific details of events.
   2. Emergency Mgt & Planning delivers general announcements and information, and provides the template for Emergency Action Contacts to develop into full plans of action.
      a. Begin with a building contact to ask for what is available, let them know of concerns regarding any lacking information.
      b. The template is available online; building-specific plans are not and will not be available online due to sensitive information.

6) Receipt of Petitions and Messages
   a. Student Body President / Undergraduate Student Body President
      i. Forward movement with the Putnam Administration platform is promising.
         1. Personal emails were recently sent out with details regarding SG events.
   b. Graduate and Professional Student Federation President
      i. Fall Coffee Break was held today, and many questions were answered concerning Title IX. Details to come in the near future.
         1. DEI Task Force will be meeting next week.
         2. Currently compiling responses from Silent Sam survey.
   c. Undergraduate Student Body Treasurer
   d. Graduate and Professional Student Federation Treasurer

7) Reports of the Senate
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a. Undergraduate Senate
   i. More nominees have been approved, the remaining nominees will be finished in the coming weeks.

b. Graduate and Professional Student Senate
   i. State of Graduate and Professional Students Committee will be sending out a survey to look at the needs and desires of these students, and the programs available to these groups.

8) Introduction of Senate Business

9) Informal Business Discussion
   a. Vice Chancellor Crisp Retirement
      i. He has worked here for 27 years; he has had an extensive impact on the campus. He is revered as the paramount example of a campus and Chapel Hill community leader.
      1. Support for him would be appreciated. Possibly name the Student Government suite after him?
         a. Speaker of USG Senate has no opinion on the suite, but commends the written letter.
      2. The Board of Directors has been notified, pending the opinions of the JGC.
      3. Opinion that the SG suite should be named after a student, as it is largely separate from faculty.
         a. Counter-opinion that due to his close relationship and intense advocacy of students, it is appropriate.
   b. Student Fee Proposal for Drug Offenders and Undocumented Students
      i. An Undergraduate Senator has proposed that student organizations pay a fee to help undocumented students and drug offenders who lost funding.
      1. Part of the conversation was to collect more data and create a long-term plan, not immediately impose a vote or fee.
         a. The next year should be used to create a plan and proposals, as well as gather information and research on the subject.
      ii. This is a broader conversation that will be ongoing throughout the next year.
         1. The Senator’s initial idea was to start the conversation.

10) Notices and Announcements
    a. Although some issues existed with the presentation, it was insightful and informative. More presentations should take place at JGC.
    b. Transportation Services is having a conversation about electric scooters.

11) Adjournment
    a. Meeting is adjourned at 6:22.