



The Office of the Student Body President
9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001
P: 704-687-7167 | studentbodypresident@uncc.edu | sga.uncc.edu

January 24th, 2022

Dr. Susan Harden
Faculty Council President

Good Morning Dr. Harden,

I hope this letter finds you well as we begin in-person instruction for the Spring semester. In my official capacity as Student Body President, I wanted to reach out to you and convey a message of unity and an urging of support as we embark on a new semester during difficult times for both our students and our faculty.

We have seen throughout this pandemic that Niner Nation is strongest when we are united in our causes. Despite the ongoing public health crisis, this past semester saw students do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through impressive vaccination rates, as well as compliance with mask mandates and mitigation testing. However, it should be noted that the success of this past semester was not due to our actions alone. Students repeatedly shared inspiring and heartfelt stories of professors providing compassion and understanding during these difficult times. Flexibility surrounding attendance policies, assignment deadlines, and more ensured that students did not have to prioritize their own academic success over the health and well-being of our classrooms and our community. From the bottom of my heart, I am genuinely thankful for the sacrifices our faculty made in this regard to allow for such a balance to be struck between safety and success. It was not easy, but the accommodations provided are both acknowledged and appreciated throughout the Student Body.

I write this letter to you with the intention of asking for your support in encouraging preventative accommodations to continue. In the midst of a public health crisis, it seems imperative that certain best practices continue to help keep our campus safe and allow for students to thrive academically. Specifically, I am asking you to encourage professors to allow for flexible deadlines, lenient attendance policies, as well as the ability for students to record classroom lectures for peers who may be unable to attend class due to illness or exposure. While I respect a professor's academic right to run their classroom as they see fit, these accommodations are essential for allowing us to achieve our shared goal of both a safe and productive learning experience.

I know that when we assumed our respective positions, neither one of us envisioned ourselves still combating the effects of COVID-19 two years into this pandemic. Despite the circumstances we find ourselves in, I am thankful for the deep bonds of support that have developed between students and professors through this ordeal. The road ahead remains challenging, but I am convinced through the continued support of our faculty and the commitment of our students that we will emerge from this pandemic stronger and more united than ever before. As always, thank you for your continued service to our University, our students, our faculty, and Go Niners.

Respectfully,

Dick Beekman
2021-2022 Student Body President