

# ADOLFO

*a* **CAROLINA** *you can* **TRUST**

## POLICY PLATFORM 2025 - 2026

Presented by  
ADOLFO4SBP Campaign  
UNC-Chapel Hill



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## Letter from the Candidate

Also available in / También disponible en [Español \(Spanish\)](#)

### My fellow Tar Heels,

My name is Adolfo Alvarez, and I'm excited to announce that I'm running to be your next Student Body President.

The reason I'm running is simple: Considering what I believe, what I've worked for at Carolina over the past three years, what I see happening in our community, and what I want to see change, **I could not stand aside**. Allow me to introduce myself: I'm a third-year Covenant scholar studying Media and Journalism and Global Studies. I grew up in a low-income family in **Sinaloa and Guerrero, Mexico**, and emancipated and immigrated to the U.S. at 16, dreaming of attending university here.

My leadership at Carolina has always been focused on one core value: putting our community first. Under my leadership, our Model United Nations program rose to become the **fifth most prestigious in the world**. I've contributed to development campaigns that raise over **\$90 million** for student scholarships annually, and I've represented Carolina at youth mentorship forums in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia, bringing those experiences back to **empower other Tar Heels**.

If elected, I will fight tirelessly to fix the disconnect between leadership and the student body, bringing a fresh, outside perspective to ensure we truly represent our community's concerns within the administration. With our campaign's **Tar Heel Targets** as a roadmap for action, I will use my seat on the Board of Trustees to push for progress on critical issues like accessibility, mental and reproductive health, graduate student representation, and more – a fight I am ready to take on. As I begin this campaign, I turn to a Mexican saying that guides me: 'El que a buen árbol se arrima, buena sombra le cobija' (*He who leans on a good tree, finds good shade*). By leaning on the values of **unity and accountability**, I believe we can create **A CAROLINA YOU CAN TRUST**, and I hope to earn your vote.

With a heart for our Community,



## Letter from the Policy Directors

Also available in / También disponible en [Español \(Spanish\)](#)

Dear Tar Heels,

Our names are Paloma and Natalie, and we are the Policy Directors for Adolfo Alvarez's Student Body President Campaign. We want to extend our gratitude to the wonderful policy team that has helped shape this campaign through their hard work and dedication to writing authentic, achievable policies! The policy team was recruited for their unique expertise and passion, and our platform was shaped by students with extensive experience in applicable fields, including world renowned mental health experts and accessibility advocates.

Throughout the policy writing process, our team has connected with countless student organizations so that our policies would best reflect the issues our community genuinely cares about.

We are confident that the Tar Heel Targets agenda can bring a more actionable and accountable policy approach to the Executive Branch, which will only be possible through your support for our campaign. Through these twelve targets, we are committed to finally changing the disconnect between students and their elected representatives so that we may work toward restoring trust in Carolina's governing body.

Best,



Paloma  
Policy Co-Director



Natalie  
Policy Co-Director

# OUR VALUES AND PRIORITIES

## THE ALVAREZ ADMINISTRATION

### TRANSPARENCY

We are committed to open communication, clear decision-making processes, and accountability within student government, fostering a more transparent and genuine connection with the student body.

### ADVOCACY

We will place advocacy at the forefront of our action on the Tar Heel Targets, ensuring that the needs and concerns of all students are heard and accurately represented on the key issues our campaign targets, and beyond.

### RESPONSIBILITY

We aim to uphold a strong sense of duty to represent and serve the student body with integrity and commitment, placing the responsibilities of the Executive Branch members above any personal interests.

- ✔ Transition the Tar Heel Targets into departmental work within the Executive Branch for cross-collaborative action.
- ✔ Connect with cultural, pre-professional, athletic, and greek organizations as part of the relationship reconstruction process.
- ✔ Increase transparency about the work of the Executive Branch and encourage external students to engage with the administration.
- ✔ Allow for positions to remain competitive for passionate Tar Heels that care about the areas of action focus they are designated to serve.



# THE 12 TAR HEEL TARGETS







# TARHEEL TARGETS

## **What are the Tar Heel Targets?**

The Tar Heel Targets serve as our campaign agenda and are designed as a blueprint to create a more actionable and transparent student government. They outline 12 key issues that our administration is committed to addressing within the Executive Branch. Each target represents a specific student concern, paired with specific, actionable goals that reflect the policy proposals we aim to advocate for.

## **How do the Tar Heel Targets address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion?**

Our campaign is built on a commitment to fostering belonging, respect, and opportunity for every student. With the guidance of two DEI Policy Directors and several DEI advisors, we developed inclusive policies tailored to address the need of our student body. By breaking our policies into 12 targeted areas of focus, we have strived to cover the necessary accessibility, representation, and support needs for all. We remain open to listening, learning, and taking action to create a campus where everyone can thrive and encourage any member of the student body to contact us if they have any input into the goals of our targets.

## **What inspired these Targets?**

When our team came together to develop the policy priorities for our campaign, we set out to change the way policy is approached by the Executive Branch. Our vision was to create a centralized platform focused on actionable targets rather than fragmented proposals. The Tar Heel Targets were inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the United Nations 2030 agenda, which Adolfo has passionately supported since he was 15. This framework has allowed the international community to drive impactful action in a centralized manner, allocating resources and efforts toward key issues over an extended 15-year period.

## **How will the Tar Heel Targets benefit students?**

This agenda was created after assessing the top concerns of the student body and discussing key issues with different student organization leaders. The targets aim to address the issues that students care about the most, and are designed to provide a path to work toward

increasing the advocacy for everyday issues that students continue to struggle with. These targets will benefit students as they will increase

### **What makes the Tar Heel Targets different?**

Unlike the traditional approach to policy in student government campaigns—which often focuses on isolated departments—these targets provide an integrated perspective, offering the student body a clear and comprehensive outline of our administration’s priorities. We believe the Tar Heel Targets present the most practical and effective pathway to address key issues at the university, including free speech, mental and reproductive health, graduate students inclusivity, and more.

### **Who is involved in making the Tar Heel Targets happen?**

The members of the administration that will be willing to create cross-department efforts to achieve progress toward achieving the specific goals within them. We want to build a more collaborative leadership environment within the Executive Branch that encourages cross collaboration between departments. Adolfo will prioritize bringing in people who are passionate about their work and have relevant experience. Rather than maintaining a transactional system where only friends gain access, he will ensure that nearly every position in the Executive Branch is open for all to apply.

### **What happens after the campaign?**

Once the campaign concludes, the work of our administration will truly begin. The focus of the transition period will shift to recruiting the student leaders who care about and are ready to drive action on the key issues addressed by our policy proposals, and the administration leadership will be focused on making the connections with the student body that are necessary to put the Tar Heel Targets into action.

**1** Reconnect with Student Organizations



**Target 1: Reconnect with Student Organizations**

It is urgent for Student Government to build closer relationships with the diverse communities and organizations that make Carolina so special. For so long, campus organizations have not had a voice in executive decision-making and have been alienated from Student Government. This administration will prioritize student organizations in discussions with the administration and in Executive Branch initiatives, and actively seek feedback to inform Student Government's policies.

**2** Address Mental Health on Campus



**Target 2: Address Mental Health on Campus**

Furthering the university's efforts to acknowledge and advocate for student mental health is paramount to our campaign. While the introduction of wellness days and mental health services at CAPS are steps in the right direction, our team aims to expand resources for Carolina's student body. We strive to increase awareness of mental health inside and outside the classroom, offer more education and training to faculty on handling mental health situations, and foster an environment where mental health conversations are encouraged, heard, and supported.

**3** Improve Accessibility on Campus



**Target 3: Improve Accessibility on Campus**

Whether it be navigating campus with ease and adequate resources or safely practicing religion, accessibility on campus is a fundamental right. Although the University lists accessibility as a major priority, students with disabilities continue to struggle with everyday experiences at the University. Our team will prioritize improving access to housing and academic buildings, developing a live-updating accessibility map of campus, and better supporting students with learning disabilities inside the classroom.

**4** Protecting Students and Their Voices



**Target 4: Protect Students and Their Voices**

Safety has been a serious concern on campus for the past two years, and the university's administration has taken a reactive approach to its adoption of safety measures for both physical and mental well-being. We will prioritize representing student concerns in its discussions with the administration, including through expanding the executive branch's "safety committee," and implementing infrastructure checks, ensuring that safety infrastructure on campus is checked for viability at frequent intervals.

**5** Prioritize Reproductive Health



**Target 5: Prioritize Reproductive Health**

Most of the reproductive health accomplishments at UNC have been the work of third-party organizations, which indicates a lack of support from the University regarding the reproductive health of its student body. Our admin will strive to advocate for more budget/operations allocations toward expanding access to this fundamental right, both in medical facilities and in campus spaces, and work with existing campus organizations to further their missions.

**6** Support Graduate Student Affairs



**Target 6: Support Graduate Student Affairs**

Graduate students are an integral part of the Carolina community thanks to their research contributions, involvement in undergraduate education, and more. Yet, graduate students are continuously underrepresented in student government policy, and even more important, student government action. Through the first-hand expertise of numerous UNC graduate students, the Alvarez Administration hopes to amplify their voices and achieve actionable change, from increasing graduate pay and stipends to advocating for wellness day enforcement and reproductive healthcare.

**7** Achieve Financial Accessibility



**Target 7: Achieve Financial Accessibility**

While Carolina's affordability has come a long way, important aspects of low-income students' academic and personal lives continue to be unaddressed by University funding. In order to ensure that Carolina students thrive at this university and beyond, we will prioritize supporting funding for graduate school exams, creating funding opportunities for creative students in need of expensive equipment for their academic and artistic pursuits, and offering low-income students a waiver option for LFIT fees.

**8** Improve STEM Quality of Life



**Target 8: Improve STEM Quality of Life**

Pre-Medicine and Pre-Health students lack representation in Undergraduate Student Government, contributing to STEM communication disparities. The Alvarez Administration aims to support UNC students tackling STEM's difficult course load. Under our leadership, Pre-Medicine/Health students will hold critical advocacy positions in USG for the first time in years. To craft these policies, Pre-Medicine students on the Alvarez Campaign conducted interviews with campus Pre-Med/Health organizations.

**9** Provide Fair Housing



**Target 9: Provide Fair Housing**

As an administration, we will prioritize addressing the housing shortage on our campus because too many students have had to scramble to find last-minute housing options, especially students with accessibility needs and international students. While we can't guarantee on-campus housing for everyone, we aim to provide more security in the housing application process by introducing priority and hardship housing options.

**10** Support  
Environmental  
Affairs



**Target 10: Support Environmental Sustainability**

Carolina has numerous ongoing sustainability projects, including through Carolina Dining Services or the Residence Hall Association. However, there are very few lines of communication between project leaders and student government. The Alvarez Administration will work to unify the efforts of student government and student organizations by strengthening communication between involved parties to address important environmental initiatives such as water conservation and safety.

**11** Increase Access  
to Food



**Target 11: Increase Access to Food**

Food accessibility can be a challenge for many students relying on on-campus dining halls for affordability reasons, religious restrictions, or allergens. Our administration wants to address these limitations by implementing tangible changes inside dining halls, including increasing cultural cuisine and religious accommodations and increasing fundraising for initiatives such as the Carolina Cupboard and Campus Y Food Pantry.

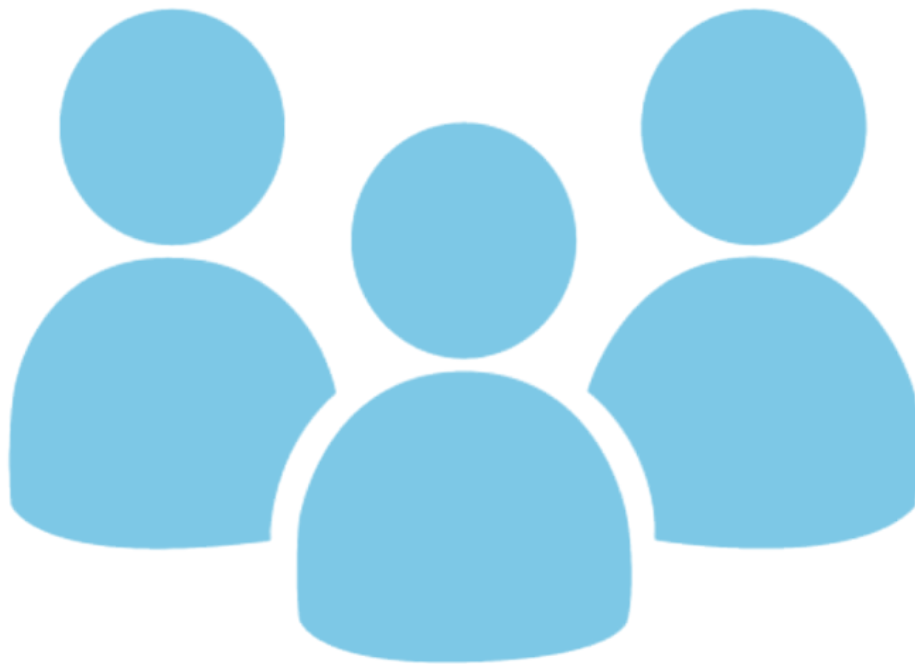
**12** Improve  
Academic  
Experiences



**Target 12: Improve Academic Experiences**

A quality education should include baseline academic protections to improve students' well-being and educational experience. Given the intellectual rigor of our institution, our administration wants to make sure every student is reaching their full academic potential. This means better accommodating students experiencing mental health issues or other extenuating circumstances. We want to better support students so that they are able to take care of themselves in order to be the best students they can be.

**TAR  
HEEL** **TARGET 1**



**RECONNECT WITH THE  
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Goal 1.1 – Operation **CONNECT** – Repairing Relationships with Student Organizations

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The current relationship between the student body and student government lacks communication, particularly regarding student organizations and their lack of recognition or representation in student government. This policy aims to bridge the disconnect by serving as a space for student organizations to share their ideas, questions, and/or concerns with the administration. In doing so, it will allow students to voice their opinions directly to the administration, and further help create a culture of connectivity and collaboration amongst different student organizations and their concerns. Operation **CONNECT** stands for **C**ampus **O**rganizations **N**etworking for **N**ew **E**ngagements, **C**ollaboration, and **T**ransformation. Through Operation **CONNECT**, The Alvarez Administration will take a multi-pronged approach towards prioritizing and nurturing its relationship with the student body and work to collectively target the goals of diverse student organizations. On day one of our administration, we will implement a program to start reaching out to the student body and reconnect with the students that the office of the student body president (SBP) is supposed to serve. From sororities and fraternities to club sports and cultural organizations, the Alvarez Campaign has already started this process, ensuring all members of the Carolina community are heard from day one.

- The Alvarez Administration will work with student organizations on campus to create a Student Organizations Board of Representatives to serve as a body that student organizations can directly communicate with.
- All student organizations will be invited to join the Student Organization Board of Representatives, but involvement will be voluntary and left to the organizations to choose whether or not to participate.
- The Student Organizations Board of Representatives will meet with students bi-monthly to hear the concerns of the student body and then meet with the student government to discuss how to address these concerns and ideas.
- To include students who may not be able to attend meetings or feel comfortable expressing their concerns directly to members of student government, the Alvarez Administration will create a forum where students can submit their comments to the Board of Representatives for their consideration. This additional method of communication will bridge the gap between the executive body and students, repairing the communication divide between policy and practice.



Goal 1.2 – Operation **CONNECT** – Increasing Collaboration Between Student Organizations and Greek Life

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The Alvarez Administration will work with the Panhellenic Association and Interfraternity Council at UNC (IFC) to include sororities and fraternities in cross-club collaboration, specifically in regards to community service and philanthropy efforts on campus and in the broader Carolina community. Greek Life organizations on campus contribute remarkable resources and labor to philanthropy efforts, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. By connecting them with pre-professional and service organizations on campus, the Alvarez Administration will facilitate collaborative community service efforts to improve our community. Engagement with the broader Chapel Hill community is key to building a Carolina that both community members and students can trust, and collaboration between all organizations that participate in local service work can help magnify the amount that we can give back to the place we call home. The Alvarez Administration will strive to include all stakeholders in discussions around community service and philanthropy, making sure no voice is left unheard.

- The Alvarez Administration, working with the Office of Student Affairs, will connect the Panhellenic Association and the Interfraternity Council to the newly created Student Organizations Board of Representatives, providing an open discussion space for collaboration.
- This discussion forum will strive to put all campus organizations, whether panhellenic or not, on equal footing, by providing all organizations the opportunity to have their concerns and ideas heard by the executive body.
- The Alvarez Administration will work with the Carolina Center for Public Service and the Town of Chapel Hill to identify key areas of need in the local community and recommend joint service projects in the local community.

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 2**



**ADDRESS MENTAL  
HEALTH ON CAMPUS**

## Goal 2.1 – Proper Mental Health Promotion and Education Among UNC Faculty and Staff

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Youth and student mental health has become a pertinent topic of conversation within colleges and universities around the United States. As the topic of mental health and wellness increases, it is important to ensure that university faculty and staff are well-informed and educated to deal with mental health concerns, signs of mental illness, and communicative strategies to guide students toward the appropriate resources. Most faculty and staff are aware of the importance of talking about mental health and wellness on campus; however, many instructors have not received adequate training to create an environment of support and understanding of dealing with these issues in the college classroom. While faculty and staff are not trained mental health professionals and by no means should be expected to address mental health concerns among students, they can create an atmosphere of support by knowledge of the appropriate tools to guide students toward. According to TIME Magazine, UNC has so far reached more than 900 faculty, staff, and students who have taken Mental Health First Aid, a program that teaches individuals to respond to the mental distress in others. It is mostly a voluntary endeavor, and most popular in fields of “helping” professions such as nursing or social work. However, it is important to expand the awareness of these kinds of programs to other fields such as business, media and journalism, economics, STEM, and other fields where this training may be less active.

- We will ensure faculty across all departments are aware of educational mental health programs such as Mental Health First Aid, QPR training, the Heels Care Network, Mental Health and Wellness Resources, and Miles for Wellness.
- We will encourage faculty to have a greater willingness to approach mental distress and take programs such as Mental Health First Aid.
- As faculties create course guidelines and rules within the syllabus, we will encourage the implementation of a notice of open culture, dialogue, and acceptance of mental health communication from the beginning, which can make students more likely to seek help when needed by including language on mental health.

## Goal 2.2 – The Creation of Peer Support Groups Under CAPS

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Peer support has been shown to be an incredibly effective tool to help guide young people through mental health challenges. Peer support and lived experience cannot replace the years of education and professional expertise of trained mental health professionals, but it can offer some relief through validation and fostering a sense of understanding. Peer support resources can offer a positive interpersonal aspect for those with mental health challenges, especially when mental health support may be difficult to receive, wait times are prolonged within campus health services, or students do not wish to have clinical treatment. This administration will seek to implement a 24-hour peer support hotline service where students can receive peer support from trained peer support workers. While we cannot rely on peer support to solve mental illness, we can strive to give students a better sense of interpersonal safety and belonging during their time at Carolina.

- We will create positions/opportunities for students trained in peer support workers (PSW) to work at counseling centers including CAPS and Campus Health to help aid in service to students. We will partner these positions with the existing 24-hour hotline to better serve students reaching out to this hotline.
- We will ensure that peer support workers are adequately trained in providing support and empathetic camaraderie.

## Goal 2.3 – Enhancing and Promoting CAPS Outreach Services

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Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at UNC-Chapel Hill provides crucial mental health services to UNC students that have been shown to be helpful in the health and wellness within the UNC student body. The Alvarez Administration wishes to aid CAPS in furthering the impact of its services by increasing their innovative outreach and prevention efforts through a partnership with an external mental health organization. CAPS outreach efforts include classroom presentations, workshops, and special events covering topics spanning from stress management to suicide prevention, grief and loss support, LGBTQ+ student mental health and more. To aid the growth of these services and reflect the ongoing and evolving nature of mental health resources, the Alvarez Administration proposes becoming a partner with external organizations such as *The Association for University and College Counseling Center Outreach*. This partnership would provide several benefits to the university's mental health efforts, by offering greater expertise regarding campus outreach and intervention efforts, in addition to providing numerous opportunities for students interested in this field, such as a

mentorship program, leadership opportunities, and reduced conference fees. Partnering with such a program acknowledges the role that universities play in fostering the continuous growth and evolution of our understanding of mental wellness as well as reducing the stigma around discussions of mental health.

- We will increase awareness of outreach and prevention programs on student wellness/CAPS website and create a web forum for students to suggest new workshop topics.
- We will encourage a partnership between the Alvarez Administration’s Mental Health Committee—run by UNC student and mental health advocate Keegan Lee—and The Association for University and College Counseling Center Outreach so that we can continue to evolve our approach to mental health.
- We will increase the student voice and perspectives at CAPS services.

#### Goal 2.4 – Increasing External Discourse on Mental Health Topics

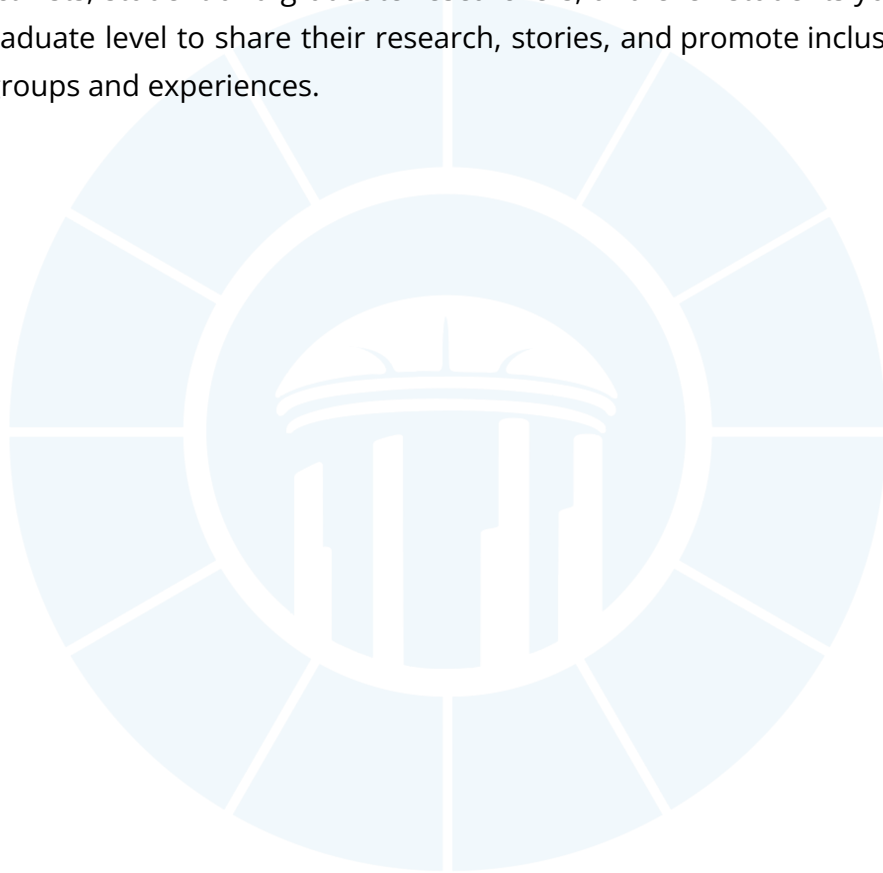
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Colleges and universities are vital to educating the next generation on important modern topics, preparing students to leave their legacy in the world. Thus, colleges and universities must prepare students to handle a vast array of different viewpoints and be prepared to acknowledge and become aware of certain divides and gaps in the literature that call for action, not only within mental health but within all academic disciplines. The University of North Carolina consists of a vast array of clinical scientists, renowned researchers, and scientists who are well-equipped to contribute to topics on well-being and mental health. However, focusing solely on community professionals to contribute to the discourse limits external conversations being had across the United States and around the world. In order to continue to create a holistic methodology to address mental health concerns at UNC, *increased* external discourse is greatly suggested to be prioritized to educate faculty, students, and the UNC community to not only understand what it being done correctly, but what other strategies can be implemented to advance student wellness on campus and as the students depart their undergraduate careers. Used with intention, this policy’s objective is to bring in consult external dialogue through the implementation of in-person events, workshops, webinars, lectures, and more to expand the breadth of knowledge and ideas UNC has about student wellness.

- We will designate individuals within the Alvarez Administration’s Mental Health Committee to choose a “topic of the month” or intentional scientific topic of conversation and invite individuals within such areas of expertise to campus to give

presentations, intimate workshops, lectures, and more to strengthen the physical impact and spread awareness on these topics as outward perspectives, viewpoints, and minds strengthen the pertinence of the topics.

- We will work with external organizations and individuals from around the world to host events and scientific conversations on mental health, bridging understandings, and fostering collaboration between educational institutions. We aim to recognize mental health advocates at all levels, from those with prestigious degrees and accreditations to youth activists, student and graduate researchers, and even students younger than the undergraduate level to share their research, stories, and promote inclusiveness among all age groups and experiences.



TAR  
HEEL **TARGET 3**



**IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY  
ON CAMPUS**

### Goal 3.1 – Introducing Hardship Housing

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At Carolina, students who have extenuating circumstances and transportation needs that cannot be met through the parking lottery system are eligible to apply for hardship parking. The Alvarez Administration believes that extenuating circumstances can apply to many other areas of student living, such as housing. We believe that allowing students to apply for hardship housing could aid students with specific demands that can be met through on-campus living. An application process for hardship housing would directly benefit students facing challenges such as financial constraints, transportation issues, or other pressing circumstances that make off-campus living unfeasible. Our hardship application process would be similar to that of transportation services, allowing students with specific needs to ask for an accommodation. However, we recognize the need to identify extenuating circumstances that would qualify for hardship housing specifically. Our administration believes such a process is essential to provide equitable access to resources for all Carolina students.

- We will work with Carolina Housing to implement a hardship housing application, following in the steps of transportation services, to process the request for the accommodation.
- We will identify situations that would require hardship housing such as financial constraints, medical needs, family responsibilities, transportation limitations, etc.
- We will work with Carolina Housing to provide accommodation for approved students, as well as connect them to other resources across campus to aid them with their situation.
- We will implement an appeals process for those denied, so as to ensure equitable outcomes for all, as well as a feedback process to consistently improve the system and student living.

### Goal 3.2 – Creating Live Accessible Mapping Options

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The Alvarez Administration is passionate about recognizing that different students have different needs and that all should be considered and accommodated by the university. We acknowledge the ongoing construction and renovation efforts across campus, including areas such as Bingham Hall, Avery Residence Hall, and Ridge Road, all of which have occurred in the Fall 2024 semester. These constructions have the potential to disrupt transportation and accessibility for all students. Importantly, we want to highlight that some students, including those who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids, may require advance notice about



construction zones to effectively plan their routes and ensure timely access to classes and facilities. Because of this, the Alvarez Administration proposes the creation of a website in which all students can easily view construction sites or mobility disruptions across campus. We propose that this mapping be live, to include any and all disruptions as they occur. By implementing this website, all students, especially those who may need to consider their trajectory across campus carefully, can plan ahead.

- We will work with the Equal Opportunities and Compliance Office to allocate resources to the creation of this website.
- We will establish a streamlined communication channel with the university's facilities and construction teams to ensure timely updates on new construction sites or changes.
- We will establish a feedback loop where students can report issues, suggest improvements, or flag unmarked disruptions.
- We will ensure that the map highlights all accessibility features, such as ramps, elevators, and shuttles, so students can plan a new route if a disruption occurs.
- We will organize an awareness campaign to introduce the website to the student body, ensuring that all students are aware of this resource.

### Goal 3.3 – Improving Housing and Academic Building Accessibility

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Carolina has a diverse student population with different needs that should be accounted for. The Alvarez Administration finds it imperative to ensure that all students have equitable access to housing and academic buildings on campus. We recognize that UNC is a historical campus and that large-scale accessibility improvements are likely unfeasible because they require substantial funding and time. Additionally, construction on academic or housing buildings creates disruptions on campus that further limit the mobility of some students. With this in mind, we consider accessibility to be a fundamental principle of equity and respect. Therefore, we propose the following plan to address these concerns in a feasible way, while also recognizing that they are long-term goals. We highlight the Old Well accessible ramp as a great example of what this policy wishes to achieve across campus. The Alvarez Administration advocates for a comprehensive accessibility audit, the creation of a short-term and long-term plan, and a student-run committee that can help us consider the needs of all students.

- We will conduct a comprehensive audit to consider our current accessible facilities, both housing and academic, considering all aspects of the facility, such as hallways, elevators, signage, obstacles, etc.

- Beginning with critical problems identified in the audit, we will develop a plan with short-term and long-term actionable goals, and detailed timelines and funding strategies to best address these issues.
- We will develop a student-run committee with diverse perspectives to provide feedback on the process of carrying out this policy.
- We will account for the need for accessible buildings in future construction and ensure that accessibility needs are not only met, but exceeded beyond compliance.

### Goal 3.4 – Introducing Accessible Sports

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Sports are such an important part of Carolina’s culture. From our incredible Division 1 sports teams, to our wide array of competitive intramural sports and sports clubs, most every student has the opportunity to follow and play the sports they love on campus. Yet, there are still students excluded from taking full advantage of these opportunities. The Alvarez Administration intends to make sports more accessible for those with a passion for the game, but without the space to play. Currently, Campus Recreation lists no forms of accessible sports—or adaptive programs, as listed on their website—that are actively running. Our administration hopes to change this by working with Campus Recreation and Disability Advocates for Carolina under the Campus Y to introduce accessible club sports to Carolina’s immense repertoire of over 1000 campus clubs, so that every player has a chance on the field.

- At the beginning of our administration, we will host a meeting with our administration’s Accessibility Committee and Disability Advocates for Carolina to discuss what sports students would be interested in introducing to campus.
- We will partner with Campus Recreation to introduce accessible sports into Carolina’s variety of intramural clubs.

### Goal 3.5 – Expanding Language Accessibility of Campus Tours, Admissions, and Financial Aid Information

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The Alvarez Administration is committed to ensuring language accessibility for Carolina families. Many Carolina families do not speak English as a first language, if at all, and this Administration seeks to give these families the same opportunities to help their students navigate the enrollment process smoothly. Expanding the availability of materials for campus tours, admissions, orientations, and financial aid to include additional languages would improve the experience of Carolina students and their families, providing the necessary means to successfully navigate critical systems at UNC.

- We will partner with the New Student and Family Programs Department and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to develop First-Year New Student Orientation materials in additional languages.
- We will work with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to improve outreach to prospective students in additional languages.
- We will work with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to offer prospective student tours, both in-person and self-guided, in additional languages.

### Goal 3.6 – Expanding Religious Accessibility on Campus

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The Alvarez Administration recognizes the importance of religious accommodations on campus. The establishment of a formally-recognized permanent prayer room, run through a partnership with UNC’s Muslim Student Association (MSA), would significantly improve religious accessibility on UNC’s campus. Currently, because there is no formally recognized prayer room on campus, MSA has to book a Union room a year in advance to serve as the prayer room; however, this system doesn’t protect this room from being booked by other parties even further in advance. A prayer room is an integral safe space for religious students to connect with their faith, improve their well-being, and the establishment of a formally recognized prayer room acknowledges the importance of prayer in the Islamic faith.

- We will advocate for the long-term implementation of a permanent prayer room within the Student Union.
- We will partner with the Muslim Student Association to push for this long-term goal, acknowledging the significance that a prayer room holds for their faith.

### Goal 3.7 – Introducing a 24-Hour Accessibility Hotline

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As the nation’s oldest public university, Carolina’s historical nature makes parts of its campus inaccessible or difficult to navigate for some students. In prioritizing making Carolina a more accessible place for all students, our administration strives to hold the university accountable for both progress, and the failures of its design. No student should ever have to experience the failure of accessibility features, such as elevators; however, in the event that these failures occur, the Alvarez Administration wants to ensure that students have immediate resources to turn to. As such, we propose the creation of a 24-hour accessibility hotline.

- We will work with the Accessible Carolina Committee within the UNC Equal Opportunities and Compliances office to advocate for the creation of a 24-hour accessibility hotline.

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 4**



**PROTECT STUDENTS AND  
THEIR VOICES**

### Goal 4.1 – Safety Infrastructure Checks

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Ensuring the safety of all individuals on campus is one of the most important responsibilities of any educational institution. Surveillance cameras, emergency sirens, and other safety equipment provided by Alert Carolina are frequently relied upon in dire situations to stop damage or provide efficient emergency responses. However, when these systems malfunction or fail to work, they can leave students, faculty, and staff vulnerable to threats. A failure to address these issues in a timely manner can have serious consequences during emergencies. To ensure that these systems fulfill their intended role and offer the required assistance during emergencies, regular maintenance and functioning tests are crucial. This policy is imperative to the campus's commitment to creating a safe, secure environment for all individuals, providing peace of mind for students and staff, and ensuring that the university is fully equipped to respond to any crisis.

- We will implement a policy that mandates routine checks of all safety infrastructure, including emergency sirens, security cameras, panic buttons, and emergency lighting, at regular intervals (e.g., monthly or quarterly). These checks will ensure that all systems are fully operational and able to respond effectively in emergencies.
- We will work with Alert Carolina and relevant student organizations to conduct drills that simulate real emergency scenarios. These drills will test the functionality of the infrastructure in practice, allowing campus security to assess how well the systems are integrated into the overall emergency response plan. Students and staff will also be trained on how to access emergency services and use safety infrastructure effectively in real-world situations.

### Goal 4.2 – Increasing Language Options in Alert Carolina Messaging System

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Proper dissemination of emergency updates to university affiliates is critical in order to uphold the University's mission to serve its students at the most basic level. Alert Carolina emergency updates provide students, staff, and faculty with the facts to make informed decisions in the case of a crisis. These updates only exist in Spanish and English, however, which is a massive barrier to accessible safety information for students whose primary languages are not English or Spanish. The Alvarez Administration aims to expand the number of languages available through the Alert Carolina service. In light of the incident in the Fall of 2023, additional funding and reparations on Alert Carolina and campus safety have been made to ensure that all students are given equal opportunity to make a safe decision; however, we must continue to

expand on the accessibility of these services. UNC's mission statement claims to "teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders (2024)." We must apply that mission statement to support our diverse student body that collectively studies over 40+ languages offered in the College of Arts and Sciences by ensuring that no student, staff, or faculty member will fall through the cracks as they pursue our University's mission.

- The Alvarez Administration will work alongside NC SAVAN, an information-sharing system that supports automated victim notifications in North Carolina, and Alert Carolina. Currently, Alert Carolina emergency messaging is only functional in English and Spanish; however, NC SAVAN offers translation services in over 100 other languages. With a successful partnership alongside NC SAVAN, UNC students can be better informed in emergencies and make safe decisions.

#### Goal 4.3 – Expanding the Executive Branch's Safety Committee

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In order to prioritize the implementation and accountability of safety mechanisms on campus, the Alvarez Administration wishes to expand the Executive Branch's Safety Committee. The expansion of this committee, which under the current administration is grouped together with student wellness, will ensure that there are members of the administration whose main focus is confirming the utmost safety of our resources. By making safety a separate issue from mental wellness, we can delegate more human resources to both efforts individually, in order to further students overall well being on campus.

- We will establish a Student Safety Committee, whose responsibilities lie in assuring the conduction of safety infrastructure checks and the expansion of AlertCarolina's language accessibility, as well as promoting free speech policies on campus.
- This committee will meet bi-monthly to discuss the progress of their efforts toward a safer Carolina, and any member of the student body may be permitted to attend once a month if they wish to provide feedback.

#### Goal 4.4 – Free Speech Policy and Students’ Rights

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Creating a safe, structured, and supportive environment for all students on campus is essential for student well-being. Transparency from administrators to students is integral to creating this environment, particularly transparency regarding free speech policies. Ensuring that students are aware of the free speech policies in place on campus is important for organizations planning demonstrations. Additionally, students should be aware of their rights during said demonstrations. Creating easily accessible and comprehensive information about students’ rights on campus would be beneficial to keep demonstrations peaceful for both students and university staff.

- The Alvarez Administration will review free speech policies with administrators to ensure the utmost clarity of such policies, and further, that they align with the First Amendment and other University policies.
- We will further review these policies to eliminate any ambiguous language and ensure further clarity among students and administrators.
- The Alvarez Administration will work with Carolina Legal Services to create and promote a “Know Your Rights” page online for students to access and understand their rights when demonstrating on campus.

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 5**



**PRIORITIZE REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH**



### Goal 5.1 – Incorporating Sexual Health Education into the LFIT Curriculum

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Sexual health education is essential for college students. However, Lifetime Fitness (or LFIT) classes, which are required to be taken by all students, do not currently include a sexual health curriculum. This topic applies to many college students and should be taught in LFIT classes to ensure that all students have a basic understanding of reproductive and sexual wellness. This is particularly important as many college students arrive on campus with limited knowledge of sexual and reproductive health due to the often inadequate coverage of sexual education in middle and high school education.

- This administration will work with the Department of Undergraduate Curricula and Campus Health to write a sexual health curriculum that is applicable and appropriate for college students. This curriculum will include topics like contraception methods, STI prevention/testing, and promoting awareness of campus and community health resources.
- The Alvarez Administration will also seek input from students to better tailor the curriculum to the student body and its needs.

### Goal 5.2 – Free and Accessible Menstrual Products

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The lack of accessible menstrual products in public restrooms is an issue that highlights broader concerns about health, equity, and inclusivity. Many people who menstruate face challenges when menstrual products like tampons and pads are not readily available in public spaces. The accessibility of menstrual products in on-campus restrooms is therefore essential for students' health and wellness, as it alleviates these challenges within campus spaces. This administration will ensure that menstrual products such as tampons and pads are free and accessible in every women's and gender-neutral on-campus restroom to promote and prioritize students' health and well-being. This initiative will eliminate the barriers of inaccessibility, ensuring that all students, regardless of their situation, have access to the products they need. By making menstrual products readily available in all campus restrooms, we are not only addressing a fundamental health need but also promoting an inclusive environment where students can focus on their academics without the added burden of difficult circumstances. Providing these products aligns with our commitment to fostering a campus that values the health and well-being of every student.

- This administration will work to provide free and accessible menstrual products in campus restrooms. These products will be regularly restocked and maintained to ensure availability for all.
- We will work with UNC-CH organizations, such as FlowForward, an organization dedicated to promoting menstrual health advocacy, to provide menstrual health products around campus in women's and gender-neutral restrooms.
- We will seek input from students to assess the program's effectiveness and address any gaps.

### Goal 5.3 – Free and Accessible Contraceptives

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Access to sexual and reproductive health services is essential to the health and well-being of students, yet many college students face barriers when seeking contraception. For many, the inability to access reliable contraceptive methods leads to stress, unintended pregnancies, and poor health outcomes due to sexually transmitted diseases. The Alvarez Administration will see to it that contraceptives such as condoms and dental dams are free and accessible in every men's, women's, and gender-neutral on-campus restroom to promote and prioritize students' sexual and reproductive health. This initiative will eliminate the barriers of inaccessibility, ensuring that all students, regardless of their situation, have access to the products they need. The Alvarez Administration recognizes that addressing these issues will encourage students to take control of their reproductive health and foster a healthier campus environment. This policy is critical to promoting both physical and mental well-being, ensuring that students can thrive academically and personally without the added burden of inaccessible health care.

- The Alvarez Administration will work to provide free and accessible contraceptives in campus restrooms. These products will be regularly restocked and maintained to ensure availability for all.
- The Alvarez Administration will work with UNC-CH organizations, such as Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), to provide contraceptive products. We will also work with UNC-CH Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services, such as Safe at UNC, to provide information and support for individuals impacted by gender-based violence and harassment.
- The Alvarez Administration will also seek input from students to assess the program's effectiveness and address any gaps.

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 6**



**SUPPORT GRADUATE  
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### Goal 6.1 – Increasing Campus Wages

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According to Orange County Living Wage, a living wage in Orange County, N.C. is \$17.65 per hour as of 2024. However, UNC Chapel Hill pays its workers around half of that amount, with Student Union workers earning between \$9.50 to \$11.00 per hour as of 2023. Student employees should earn a wage that allows them to sustain themselves while pursuing their educational goals, instead of having to work multiple jobs on top of being a full-time student.

- The Alvarez Administration will issue a statement in support of a living wage for all full-time student workers on campus.
- We will meet with student-led workers' organizations such as UE Local 150 and the Carolina Union Board of Directors to develop recommendations for increasing UNC student workers' pay to a living wage of \$17.65 per hour, including increasing student activity fees in UNC's tuition to fund an increase in wages.
- We will bring these recommendations before the Board of Trustees to be voted upon after navigating the proper channels and receiving approval from UNC administration.

### Goal 6.2 – Increasing Graduate Stipends

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The base graduate stipend in 2025 remains \$20,600, or less than half of the calculated cost of living in Orange County, as derived by the MIT Living Wage calculator. In order to effectively recruit and retain the people who conduct world class research and deliver the nationally acclaimed education received by undergraduates at UNC Chapel Hill, it is essential to provide fair pay. Researchers competing for Ph.D. positions at UNC Chapel Hill are at similar caliber of researchers at peer institutions and likely receive offers from those universities, all of which offer stipends that are proportionally higher than UNC Chapel Hill.

- The Alvarez Administration will advocate for higher graduate student stipends directly with relevant university administration including the Board of Trustees.
- We will advocate for reallocation of funds towards improving the pay of graduate students.

### Goal 6.3 – Advocate for a Well-Being Day Enforcement Policy in the Graduate School

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Beginning in the fall semester of 2020, UNC instituted well-being days for students in order to let students “have a break from classes to focus on mental health and overall wellness.” However, there is no uniform policy for enforcing wellness days specifically for graduate and professional students. Many students have shared that their instructors would hold class anyway or require them to attend non-essential meetings pertaining to research, teaching, and networking. This hinders the ability of graduate students at UNC to truly take a break and prioritize their mental well-being on these designated days without missing out on potential opportunities. The Alvarez Administration reaffirms its commitment to advocating for initiatives dedicated to preserving the mental well-being of UNC’s graduate students.

- The Alvarez Administration will meet with the Graduate Student Experience’s Working Conditions Working Group, the Graduate and Professional Student Government, and the UNC Workers’ Union to gather feedback on the current state of well-being days for graduate students and develop recommendations.
- We will also work with the aforementioned groups as well as the Office of the Provost to develop a fair and equitable policy for enforcing well-being days within the Graduate School that allows graduate students to truly have a break from work and therefore be able to prioritize their well-being on well-being days.

### Goal 6.4 – Allocate More and Improved Graduate Student On-Campus Housing

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Baity Hill is UNC’s only designated on-campus housing for graduate students. In December, Chancellor Lee Roberts said that UNC is planning to close Baity Hill after an alternative is developed. Baity Hill houses 544 graduate students out of the ~9,000 attending UNC. The vast majority of graduate students have to find their own housing off campus. The median rent in Chapel Hill has been increasing, while UNC and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community as a whole is experiencing an ongoing housing shortage. Additionally, Baity Hill’s semester rates for graduate apartments have increased by hundreds of dollars each year for the past few academic years, despite graduate stipends remaining stagnant. The Alvarez Administration recognizes that UNC’s current and new graduate housing should be affordable and provide more housing units designated for graduate students.

- The Alvarez Administration will ensure that graduate student voices are present in the Residence Hall Association and uplifted in conversations regarding the availability and affordability of graduate student housing.

- We will work with the Graduate and Professional Student Government to create recommendations for any new graduate housing projects that arise and present them to UNC leadership.
- We will advocate for more graduate housing and graduate student stipend increases to make on-campus living more affordable for graduate students.

### Goal 6.5 – Protecting Reproductive and Preventative Healthcare Coverage

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Many UNC students are enrolled in health insurance plans through UNC, including Student Blue, GeoBlue for international students, and the Graduate Student Health Insurance Program (GSHIP). Therefore, many rely on the university for their healthcare. Many students (especially graduate students) have families of their own or other circumstances in which they seek reproductive healthcare, such as prenatal care and access to birth control. Additionally, preventive care coverage is incredibly important because it allows beneficiaries to have immunizations, cancer screenings, mental health screenings, lab tests, and numerous other procedures in order to remain healthy and prevent potential life-threatening conditions. Given that the ability of a person's right to reproductive autonomy is being threatened in multiple states and the Affordable Care Act's preventive healthcare coverage is currently being challenged in court, the Alvarez Administration believes that all students enrolled in health insurance through UNC should have 100 percent of reproductive and preventive healthcare covered by their health insurance.

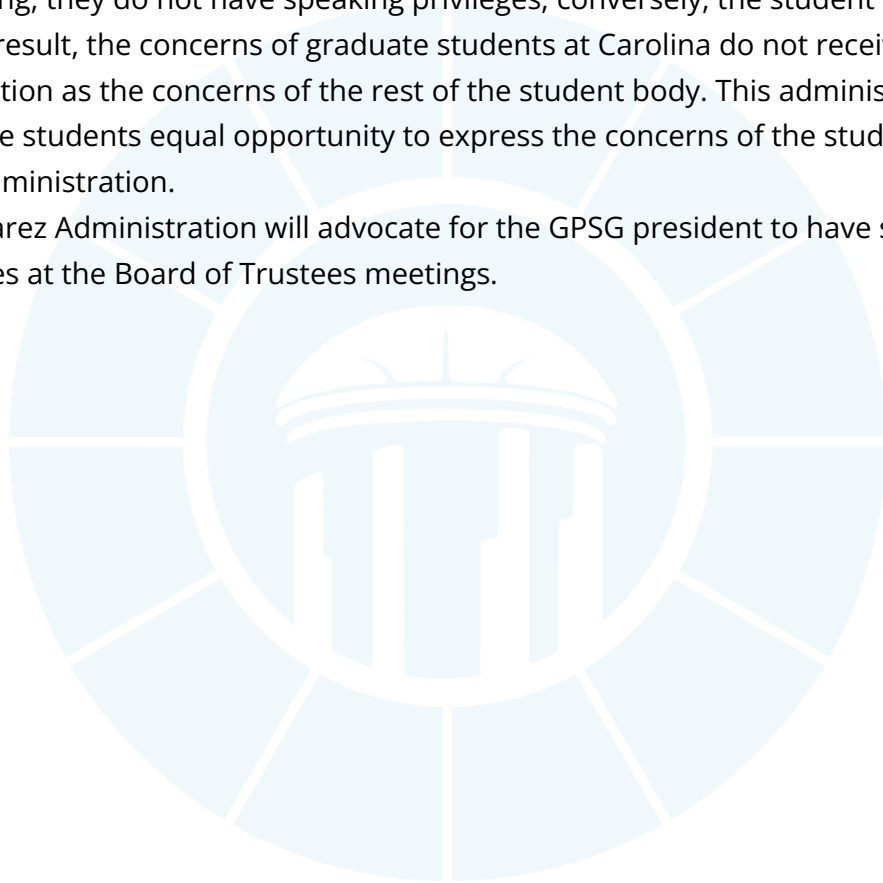
- The Alvarez Administration will advocate for 100 percent coverage of preventive and reproductive healthcare procedures through UNC student health insurance plans.
- We will continue to advocate for the reproductive rights of the UNC student body, including the right to bodily autonomy.

Goal 6.6 – Advocate for Graduate and Professional Student Government President to Have Speaking Privileges During Board of Trustees Meetings

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Graduate students are a major part of Carolina’s student body, yet they are often deprived of ample recognition in UNC’s student government. The Alvarez Administration wants to ensure that graduate students have a voice in all levels of decision making. While the president of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) has voting privileges at the Board of Trustees meeting, they do not have speaking privileges; conversely, the student body president has both. As a result, the concerns of graduate students at Carolina do not receive the same level of recognition as the concerns of the rest of the student body. This administration strives to give graduate students equal opportunity to express the concerns of the student body to the Carolina administration.

- The Alvarez Administration will advocate for the GPSG president to have speaking privileges at the Board of Trustees meetings.



**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 7**



**ACHIEVE FINANCIAL  
ACCESSIBILITY**



### Goal 7.1 – Advocate for the Covenant Scholarship Program to Include Graduate School Exams in their Existing List of Additional Funding

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Carolina promises to prepare its students for their future goals and endeavors. For many, this includes pursuing another higher education degree, research, or artistic pursuits. However, these aspirations all require a stable financial standing before even beginning the application process. For low-income students, this requirement can be an immense barrier. To ensure that Carolina keeps its promise, the Alvarez Administration will seek to extend the Covenant Scholarship to include graduate school exams and application fees in its existing list of additional funding for low-income students.

- The Alvarez Administration will work with Carolina Covenant and the UNC Scholarship and Financial Aid department to advocate for the scholarship to include additional funding for graduate school exams and applications.
- We will also advocate for scholars to have funding for any additional materials needed to prepare for graduate level exams such as study programs or books for exams like the LSAT, MCAT, or GRE.

### Goal 7.2 – Expanding Financial Aid to Cover Class Materials Where the Total Cost of Required Materials Exceeds What is Budgeted for in Financial Aid Packets

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The Alvarez Administration understands that the list of undergraduate expenses does not end after covering tuition, housing, or a meal plan. One of the greatest expenses students face during their academic career is paying for required course materials. From textbooks to sheet music, UNC students from in and out-of-state pay an average of \$1290 per year. Despite the necessity of these materials, this university's standing financial aid package does not adequately cover the required expenses. Therefore, students are forced to carry much of this financial burden alone to succeed in their classes. The Alvarez Administration recognizes this inequity and intends to advocate for further aid to cover the total cost of books and materials that exceeds what has been originally budgeted in a student's financial aid package. This policy would ensure students' educational and financial needs are met, ensuring their focus is on succeeding in their classes, rather than affording the necessary materials.

- The Alvarez Administration will request that aid be extended to cover the total cost of required materials per semester in the student's financial aid package in partnership with the UNC Scholarship and Financial Aid department.

- We will seek to include a program named “Course Pack” in which students pay a maximum of \$20 per credit in a 3-credit class, resulting in a maximum overall cost of \$60 per class, to rent textbooks. If students choose to buy textbooks through the program, it would be required to do so for *all* courses a student takes that semester. The textbooks offered through this pack would be rentals with the option to purchase at the end of the semester. This program would benefit students receiving financial aid, specifically assisting STEM students who carry undue costs regarding required materials due to the high cost of textbooks.
- After courses end, many students are left with course materials that they no longer need. The Alvarez Administration plans to build off the established practice of price-matching to implement a buy-back program within the Student Stores. This policy would allow students who provide evidence of their purchase from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other local competitors to sell the materials back to the university. Both parties would benefit from this exchange, as it would allow students to acquire course material without financial burden and the Students Stores would then be able to supply future students with the same, recently purchased material.

### Goal 7.3 – Introducing the Carolina Closet, A Career and Graduation Rental System

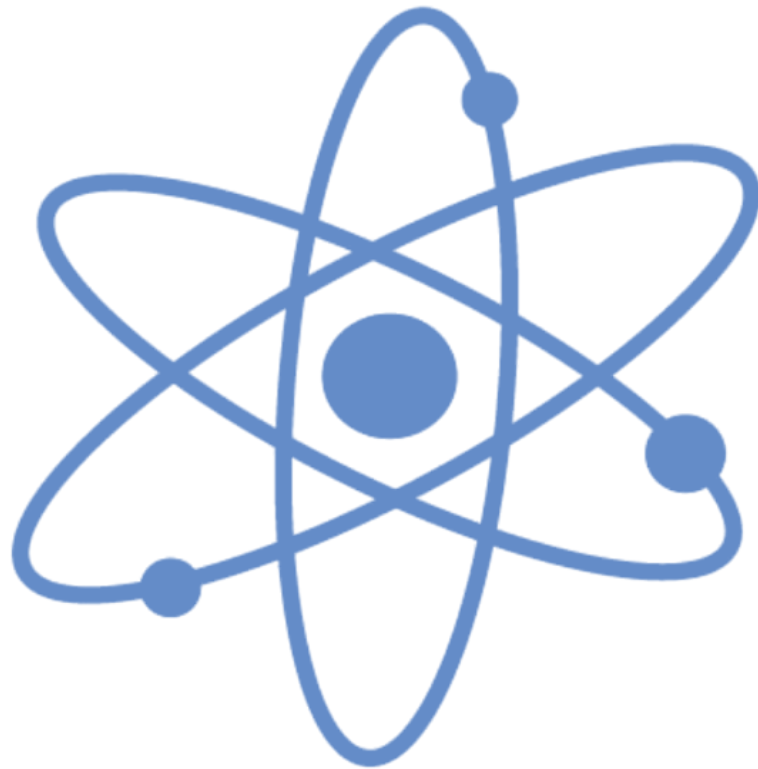
Professional opportunities and milestones like graduation should be exciting moments, not financial burdens. For many students, affording the right attire for job interviews, internships, or graduation ceremonies is out of reach. A lack of professional clothing can limit participation in key events that shape future careers, and for some, even celebrating graduation feels inaccessible. The Alvarez administration believes every student deserves to step into these moments with confidence—without the stress of wondering how they’ll afford the right outfit. This policy creates a resource where students can borrow attire at no cost, ensuring they’re ready for every career milestone and celebration.

- The Alvarez Administration will work with the Career Center and Student Affairs to establish the “Carolina Closet,” a permanent on-campus resource offering free professional attire and graduation regalia for students.
- We will organize seasonal clothing drives with the help of student organizations, alumni networks, and local businesses to collect suits, dresses, shoes, and gowns, ensuring a variety of styles and sizes are available.

- The Alvarez administration will collaborate with Jostens and Carolina Grad Experience to provide free regalia rentals for students with demonstrated financial need, promoting sustainability through gown recycling.
- To further expand this effort, we will launch the “Dress for Success” fund, supported by Carolina Parents Council grants and corporate sponsors, allowing students to request new attire for interviews, networking events, and professional conferences.



**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 8**



**IMPROVE STEM  
QUALITY OF LIFE**

## Goal 8.1 – Improving Access to Pre-Medicine and Pre-Health Resources

Currently at UNC, students on pre-medicine and pre-health tracks have very little available resources for accessing information regarding their applications to medical school, gaining experience in their fields, and or simply charting their future. In the class of 2021, four out of the top ten majors could be considered “pre-med” majors, with 1159 students out of 4068 being on this track. Additionally, in 2023, 12% of graduates had a major in biological or biomedical sciences. Due to this incredibly high percentage, the availability of resources and opportunities for both experience and training are extremely hard to come by unless students have connections with upperclassmen, physicians, or other individuals who can provide them guidance and access to opportunities for clinical hours, shadowing, and more. For health advising alone, students must wait an average of 3-4 months. Thus, most pre-health students do not receive the advising resources needed to make informed decisions about the trajectory of their pre-health career, are not made aware of the many opportunities that exist, and are not supported with application requirements or resources. As a university that prides itself on its medical institutions and research opportunities in the biological sciences, we believe that students in typical pre-medicine and pre-health courses of study must not be ignored. The Alvarez Administration will work to ensure that all students, regardless of their area of study, are given the resources to succeed at Carolina and beyond.

- We will advocate for increasing the accessibility of advising programs for pre-medical students by creating a student mentorship program, called S2S (Student to Student), that is run by undergraduate upperclassmen and graduate students. Through this program, students will be able to meet with underclassmen to offer assistance on a myriad of topics including class registration, taking advantage of student organizations, gaining experience in their fields, and more.
- The Alvarez Administration will also work towards providing university-directed opportunities and centralized information for clinical hours and an easily accessible center for information regarding opportunities both on and off campus, the available training programs in the area, and applications for hospital positions at UNC.
- We will advocate for merit and financial hardship scholarship programs for students looking to get their EMS certification and work in Chapel Hill, aiming to make the process of gaining clinical hours more accessible to students regardless of their socioeconomic status.

## Goal 8.2 – Mental Health in STEM

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The mental health of students pursuing STEM must be prioritized and not at the cost of their studies. Students should not have to choose between wellbeing and strong academic performance and learning. Thus, under the guidance of Keegan Lee, mental health advocate and UNC STEM superstar, the Alvarez Administration will support the following:

- We will advocate for academic departments to refrain from using mental health waivers to opt out of caring about the mental wellbeing of their students.
- CAPS and the course professor will directly reach out to students who miss more than five classes of a UNC-identified Pre-Med/Health science course to offer a 1 on 1 meeting with the professor or teaching assistants. Course instructors must also follow-up with a list of mental health resources on campus accessible to students.
- The Alvarez Administration will partner with the Office of Student Services in the Department of Health Sciences to develop workshops and support groups focused on stress management, resilience, and work-life balance for pre-health students.

## Goal 8.3 – Improving Study Environments for STEM Students

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Making sure that all students have the necessary tools and resources they need to succeed academically is incredibly important to the Alvarez Administration. We understand that STEM students have some of the more rigorous coursework at Carolina and require more studying time than others. Additionally, we also understand that there are times when all students need the extra time and space to get their work done. That is why the Alvarez Administration will advocate for the expansion back to a 24-hour library as it was before the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- The Alvarez administration will advocate that UNC libraries reintroduce its pre-COVID policy and maintain a 24 hour open library on business days and exam days at the Undergraduate Library (UL).
- We will work with the Undergraduate Student Senate to reallocate funds necessary for this initiative, providing the necessary learning environment for all students to thrive.

## Goal 8.4 – Addressing Tenured Professors in STEM Not Following EOC/ARS Accommodations

Studies within the STEM field are challenging in terms of grading and content. Students already navigating a physical, mental, or emotional difficulty within an academic setting must receive due accommodations once the University approves. However, not all professors have honored those accommodations, especially within the STEM departments. Due to the demanding requirements of STEM classes, this is all the more reason to protect the rights of students to obtain their accessibility requirements. All professors are required to adhere to the EOC/ARS accommodations according to the syllabus additions necessary.

- The Alvarez Administration deeply values working with student organizations already doing fantastic work within their expertise, so it proposes collaborating with the Campus Y: Disability Advocates Committee to ensure all voices are heard.

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 9**



**PROVIDE FAIR  
HOUSING**



### Goal 9.1 – Provide Priority Housing for International Students

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Carolina has over 2,600 international students coming from over 110 countries. On-campus housing is limited, as UNC has far more students than it can house. In recent years, off-campus options have become more expensive, creating a higher demand for on-campus housing. Over 1,000 students were placed on the housing waitlist for the 2025-2026 academic year. Additionally, Carolina guarantees housing for first-year students, and as incoming classes are larger, more residence halls are becoming exclusive for freshmen. Under these conditions, the university needs to acknowledge that international students have different needs than their American peers. Off-campus housing is significantly harder to obtain as an international student, due to the amount of paperwork and necessary documents that become much more complex for non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, many of the more affordable off-campus housing options are farther from campus, and given that having a car is also extremely difficult for foreign students, this further limits the available options. The Alvarez Administration prioritizes ensuring that Carolina is a welcoming place for all students by advocating for equitable housing solutions tailored to their needs.

- The Alvarez Administration aims to work with Carolina Housing to devise a feasible way for international students to have access to housing.
- We will partner with the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to advertise resources more, so as to help students who do choose to live off-campus.
- We will also advocate for more ways in which international students can feel at home at Carolina, potentially through housing programs and more flexibility when it comes to housing foreign students.

### Goal 9.2 – Expanding First-Year Programming and Support Systems to Apply to All First-Year Carolina Students

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UNC has a variety of different programs and initiatives to ease freshmen students' transition into the college experience. It is widely recognized that freshmen are entering a new chapter of their lives, one with newfound independence. The university understands that freshmen students need many resources to ease them into college life. Therefore, there are abundant resources and ways that the university facilitates the transition for students, such as freshmen-only residence halls, freshmen-specific programming, etc. We believe that transfer students face similar challenges, which is why the Alvarez Administration advocates for all first-year programming and support systems to apply to all first-year students, not just

freshmen. We recognize the existence of *Transfers United*, the Residential Learning Program (RLP) designed to house transfers together and provide resources for them. We see this as a valuable step in the right direction and wish to expand on it. We call for freshmen and first-year transfer students to fall under the same “first-year student” umbrella. By extending all first-year resources to transfers, we can ensure that transfer students have a smooth transition to Carolina, as well as a community to support them throughout their time here.

- We will work with Carolina Housing and the Office of New Student & Family Programs to include transfers in all first-year programs, such as orientation events, peer mentorship, and social activities.
- We will expand the Transfers United RLP by increasing advertising for this program, as well as fostering its growth to include more students.
- We will recognize any student who is in their first year at Carolina, freshmen or new transfer, as a first-year and share the resources accordingly.
- We will create transfer-specific initiatives to ease their transition into UNC, such as workshops on navigating academic credit transfer, using ConnectCarolina, and other ways to get more involved.

### Goal 9.3 – Implementing an anonymous Resident Advisor Reporting System

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There are dozens of students employed as Resident Advisors for undergraduate residence halls. These individuals are trusted with enormous amounts of responsibility and are required to handle incredibly sensitive situations. Despite undergoing training, the risk of inappropriate or unprofessional interactions between RA's and residents is a potential source of concern for the Alvarez Administration. Therefore, this campaign proposes the creation of anonymous Residence Advisor feedback forms, where students will be able to freely voice concerns about their RAs or provide general feedback. We as an administration want to empower residents to feel safe both within their buildings and within their relationships with Carolina staff by providing them a space for accountability and safety.

- We will create an anonymous Resident Advisor Reporting System that is presented to all students during their move-in orientation. The form will be displayed on HeelLife to allow students to access it at any time.
- The Residence Advisor managers will be in charge of reviewing the feedback and dispersing them to the proper audience (the RAs, the Community Directors, Carolina Housing, etc).

- We seek to amend the Resident Advisor Hiring System by requiring two letters of recommendation advocating for the responsibility and trustworthiness of the applicant. This will both ensure that students take the hiring process seriously, and provide outside advocacy for students' reputations.



**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 10**



**SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**

### Goal 10.1 – Collaborate with Campus Organizations to Further Environmental Advocacy and Facilitate Meaningful Change

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The Alvarez Administration believes in unity among organizations with the common goal of making Carolina a better place. Advancing environmental sustainability is paramount to this Administration, and furthering this objective starts with supporting those who have been pivotal in the work that has been done thus far, including organizations such as Epsilon ETA, Edible Campus, and many others. Partnering with these organizations already committed to promoting sustainable practices and environmental stewardship will allow the Alvarez Administration to help combine their efforts to create more collaborative approaches to achieving a more sustainable future.

- We will work with organizations such as Epsilon ETA, Edible Campus, Sustainable Business Club, Solar Equity, Carolina Green Team, and Carolina 360 and many more as they have historically lacked sufficient institutional backing. Addressing climate challenges and fostering sustainable change align directly with the purpose of this administration, and we will strive to bring visibility, financial resources, and robust institutional support to partner with such organizations during this administration.
- We will foster open communication lines between the Alvarez Administration and executive members of environmental organizations on campus to understand and support the efforts presented.
- We intend for at least one member of the Alvarez Administration’s Environmental Affairs committee to attend at least one meeting per month of these organizations to better understand the current needs and actions they hope to take to better the environment and sustainability on campus.

### Goal 10.2 – Partner with Carolina Dining Services to Increase Composting and Encourage More Food Sourcing Clarity

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The Alvarez Administration is dedicated to improving the transparency of food sourcing in the dining services on campus so as to allow students to make more informed decisions about their food. Through clear collaboration, our administration plans to partner with Carolina Dining Services (CDS) to ensure that adequate environmental measures are being taken in and out of the kitchen to reduce waste. A focus will be given on improving overall education to students across campus through tangible efforts and visual representations across the dining service locations.

- We will assist CDS employees with better educational tools to encourage students to make environmental practices more practical and convenient.
- We will reduce food waste through proper food handling and disposal with an emphasis on composting by advocating for all discarded food to be properly dealt with and environmentally sourced.
- We will call upon CDS to eliminate seed oils from their respective kitchens to help foster healthy diets and promote less processed food and fewer chemicals being put into food.
- We will help foster connections between CDS and environmental/sustainability organizations on campus to improve and unify individual efforts and practices sought after by these groups.
- We will insist on clear labeling and diet information at each dining hall location regarding their environmental impact, and help bring clarity to students and facility on the farm to table route of all food being served on campus to eliminate any transparency issues.
- We will ensure all takeaway serving utensils and cups are compostable or recyclable from all CDS locations across campus.

### Goal 10.3 – Improving Water Resource Conservation

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Water is a renewable resource however it also inhibits other energy use so conserving the usage of it can help to minimise the effects we as humans have on the planet. UNC's campus, much like others, often has inefficient water usage, especially in landscaping, dorms, and dining facilities. This leads to water waste and puts pressure on local water supplies. The Alvarez Administration is focused on advocating for solutions into water saving practices and mindful water usage.

- We will call upon the administration to promote mindful water usage by allowing and pushing the spread of water conservation education across campus.
- We will investigate rainwater harvesting for landscaping with the Grounds Services Department.
- We will explore the investment in water-saving technologies, such as low-flow toilets and irrigation systems across campus including dorm buildings and discuss ways to implement these with members of the RHA.

### Goal 10.4 – Promoting Campus Wide Water Safety

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Over the past three years, we have learned that the water quality on UNC’s campus in the facilities from faucets to drinking fountains has been previously found with lead and other harmful contaminants at alarmingly high rates. The Alvarez Administration firmly believes that water is a basic human resource and that its safety should never have to be questioned by any student, staff, or visitor on campus. This administration understands the financial constraints felt by the administration regarding frequent water tests and treatments; however, above all, safe drinking water is a basic human right so we are committed to ensuring that UNC students and faculty feel safe consuming water on campus.

- We will advocate for **annual** mandatory testing of all water resources on campus sanctioned by administration and executed by the department of Energy Management.
- We will encourage the usage of UNC labs in house to save money for water testing
- We will provide students with the opportunity to be involved in the testing of the water to learn from the data and create more engagement in water safety campus wide.
- We will advocate for a reallocation of funds to ensure departments are not solely responsible for providing the money out of pocket for filters in commonspace water fountains.

### Goal 10.5 – Targeting Environmental Initiatives with Limited Impact

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Past subsidies may have supported environmental projects that were either underfunded, inadequately planned, or misaligned with best practices. These projects have not yielded the desired environmental outcomes and have led to inefficiencies in resource use. Many of the past subsidies prioritized short-term gains or appeared to satisfy immediate regulatory or public relations goals without laying the foundation for long-term sustainability. Several initiatives lacked robust evaluation mechanisms, making it difficult to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, and alignment with broader sustainability goals.

- The Alvarez Administration will redirect resources from underperforming or ineffective initiatives towards projects that align with UNC’s long-term sustainability goals, including energy efficiency, waste reduction, and climate resilience.
- We will prioritize initiatives that contribute to tangible, measurable outcomes in areas such as carbon neutrality, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation

**TAR  
HEEL TARGET 11**



**INCREASE ACCESS  
TO FOOD**



### Goal 11.1 – Promoting More Cultural Cuisine and Improving Religious Accommodations at the On-Campus Dining Halls

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Many of the 8,000 students living on campus yearly depend on UNC Dining Services for sustainable food options while focusing on academics. Dining halls ensure that all students can eat a healthy, balanced diet while adhering to their beliefs, particularly any religious faith in which food diets may be restricted. The Adolfo Administration prioritizes meeting the needs of Carolina’s diverse student body to ensure that all students can comfortably eat on campus, regardless of their religious accommodations. We plan to advocate for more kosher, halal, vegetarian/vegan options, and warm-prepared gluten-free options in the Carolina Dining Halls. Currently, the Halal section of dining halls is only offered twice a week at Chase Dining Hall, despite plans to expand these options to every day starting the Fall 2024 semester.

- The Alvarez Administration plans to advocate and collaborate with Carolina Dining Services to officially implement a halal section in Chase Dining Hall that is offered daily rather than twice weekly.

### Goal 11.2 – Streamlining Fundraising Efforts for Carolina Cupboard, Campus Y Food Pantry, and Other Food Initiatives Through Collaborative Efforts Among Student Organizations

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Carolina is home to an array of incredible organizations working toward increased food accessibility for students. These organizations include Carolina Cupboard, the Campus Y Food Pantry, Edible Campus UNC, and plenty more. The Alvarez Administration seeks to further the excellent work these campus organizations have been doing through increased partnership among all food accessibility organizations.

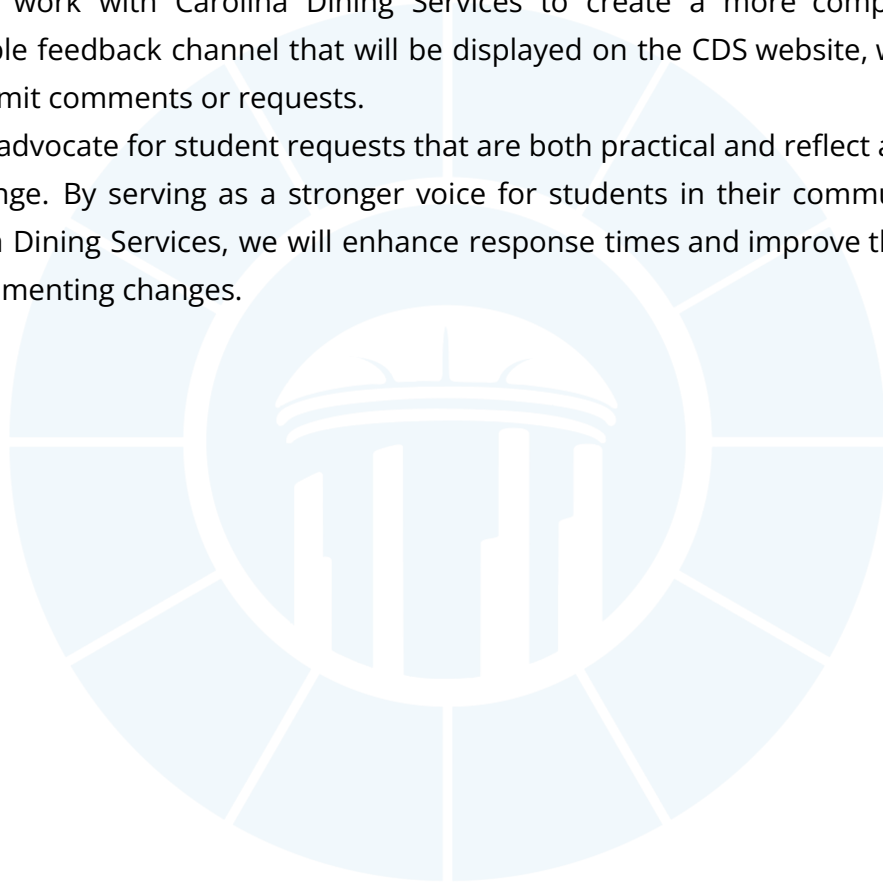
- We will advocate for increased connectivity among food accessibility community partners by hosting a monthly meeting with student government representatives to discuss how these organizations can be better supported by the Alvarez Administration.
- We will involve student government in the fundraising, donation collection, and promotional efforts for food initiatives across campus so that they are more widely known to the student body.

### Goal 11.3 – Connecting Student Government and Carolina Dining Services

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We recognize that everyone has different needs when it comes to dining on campus, and the Alvarez Administration strives to have those needs met. Whether it be looking for more allergen friendly dining options, seeking better religious accommodations, or embracing multicultural cuisine, the Alvarez Administration wants to be a mechanism by which students can communicate their needs with CDS.

- We will work with Carolina Dining Services to create a more comprehensive and accessible feedback channel that will be displayed on the CDS website, where students can submit comments or requests.
- We will advocate for student requests that are both practical and reflect a genuine need for change. By serving as a stronger voice for students in their communications with Carolina Dining Services, we will enhance response times and improve the success rate of implementing changes.



TAR  
HEEL **TARGET 12**



**IMPROVE ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCES**

## Goal 12.1 – Expansion of Absence Options to Incorporate Mental Health Issues

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With the stresses of a rigorous midterm or finals season, students must be able to balance their academic commitments with their mental health during this vulnerable time. Currently, the only situations in which students are permitted to have an excused absence are authorized university activities, disability, religious observance, pregnancy, short-term military service, and significant health conditions for self- or family-related emergencies. These limited conditions make it difficult for students who may be struggling with mental health to make it to classes that have a strict absence policy. Students who go to these classes out of fear that the unexcused absence will negatively impact their grades in the class may experience even more stressors without adequate rest.

- The Alvarez Administration will collaborate with the University Approved Absence Office (UAAO), a functional unit within the Dean of Students (DOS), to expand absence conditions to include mental health concerns and other health issues.
- Expansion of what falls under the umbrella of excused absences can significantly benefit a student's ability to balance the various aspects of their lives.

## Goal 12.2 – Enforcing Minimum Number of Unexcused Absences Without Academic Consequences

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Protecting and advocating for students within the classroom is a priority under the Alvarez Administration. A crucial component of this goal is to enforce a standardization of unexcused absences across all departments. Many students have difficulty balancing academics, social life, and other extracurriculars. Students, especially those new to the college environment, may need help to adjust to finding the balance. These students who take longer to find the balance may skip classes, which results in academic consequences. Professors with built-in unexcused absence days encourage students to take a mental health break if/when needed.

- The Alvarez Administration will collaborate with the Dean of Students (DOS) to standardize and enforce a minimum number of unexcused absences without academic consequences.
- We will advocate for wellness days to be wellness-focused by encouraging professors to extend any deadlines during a week containing a wellness day by one day.
- There is a minimum standardized number of excused absences that every professor should allow on their syllabus; a professor can add the number of days according to their curriculum schedule.

### Goal 12.3 – Introducing Flexible Scheduling for Midterms

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At the end of every semester, the University preordains fixed individual course exam times based on their scheduled class times. To prevent clashes with other exams or when there are more than three exams within 24 hours, students can complete a form to submit to their professor to have an exam time moved. Undeniably, midterm season is one of the most stressful times for students, and unlike finals season, students don't receive "reading days" devoted to studying for these exams. As such, many students find it difficult to maintain a relatively healthy balance between academics, social life, and other factors like jobs or internships. As with final exams, the Alvarez Administration believes that students should have the same degree of flexibility with midterms as they have with final exams.

- The Alvarez Administration will advocate this proposition to the University Registrar to help students with three or more midterms in a 24-hour period.
- Doing such will allow students to prioritize all their exams equally rather than prioritize one over the other due to time constraints.

### Goal 12.4 – Adding COVID-19 to University Approved Absence Policy

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Currently, the University Approved Absence Office (UAAO) does not accept COVID-19 as a valid reason for an excused absence, despite the highly contagious nature of this illness. Under the FAQs for Students, it is specifically stated that the University does not approve absences for commonly occurring illnesses such as the flu, strep throat, or mild to moderate COVID-19, and recommends that students work with their professors and their specific attendance policies to mitigate any issues. This lack of acknowledgement from the UAAO often results in students receiving unexcused absences that have the potential to affect their grade, or risking going to class with a contagious illness and potentially infecting others in an attempt to protect their grade. While many professors acknowledge sickness as a valid reason to miss class, not every professor is as lenient when it comes to unexcused absences. Therefore, the Alvarez Administration wishes to work with the University Approved Absence Office to extend excused absence policies to include COVID-19, both to protect students' health and their academics.

- We will advocate for the UAAO to expand the list of University approved absences to include COVID-19, regardless of whether it is a mild or severe case.
- We will advocate to make the excused absence review process more holistic and circumstantial with proper evidence.