

REPORT TO THE CHANCELLOR ON THE CAMPUS Y BUILDING

August 30, 2024

Chancellor Roberts:

You appointed a committee to examine the future of the Campus Y building and make recommendations about its governance and use.

The membership of the committee was:

Chairs:

- James Moeser, Chancellor Emeritus
- Richard Stevens, former chair of the UNC-CH Board of Trustees

Committee members:

- Aaron Bachenheimer, Office of Student Affairs
- Virginia Carson, retired Director of the Campus Y
- Rudi Colloredo-Mansfield, Alumnus, UNC Faculty Member
- Sari Ghirmay-Morgan, UNC Student
- Wendy Halsey, Facilities
- Lilah Krueger, UNC Student
- Jill Moore, Office of Faculty Governance
- Kara Simmons, Office of University Counsel
- Ken Smith, Alumnus
- Lauryn Taylor, UNC Student
- Clay Thorp, Alumnus
- Yalitza Ramos, Director of UNC Y, ex-officio

The committee met on August 2, 16, 23, and 30, 2024. You met with us at our first meeting and charged the committee. You asked us to review and make recommendations about the hours of use, who should have access to the building, how the use of the building should be governed and who should schedule use of space in the facility. You stated that the Anne Queen Faculty Commons space will continue to be managed by the Office of Faculty Governance.

This report reflects the unanimous consensus of the committee.

Distinction between the Campus Y and UNC Y:

As we discussed the uses of this building it was important that we understood the distinction between the Campus Y organization and UNC Y.

The Campus Y student organization is a registered student organization with more than 20 student-led committees and initiatives committed to the pursuit of social justice through advocacy, service, innovation, and direct action. Participation in these committees ranges from dozens to hundreds of students each. The Campus Y student organization funds its activities through private philanthropy, fundraising, undergraduate student senate fee allocations, and project-based grants. It does not receive any state funds. Its history at the University dates back to 1860 and it was originally affiliated with the YMCA and the YWCA.

Committees work consistently with community organizations each year, such as the Marion Cheek Jackson Center, Community Empowerment Fund, Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools, Durham Youth Home, Refugee Community Partnerships, Durham Public Schools, TABLE, Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association, and EmPOWERment, Inc, among others.

Their committees and initiatives include:

- Mutual Aid Pantry and Community Fridge
- Project Literacy
- Musical Empowerment
- Disability Advocates Committee (DAC)
- Students United for Immigrant Equality (SUIE)
- Build the Hill
- Refugee Community Partnership (RCP)
- CompostMates at Carolina
- Best Buddies
- Big Buddy
- Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)
- Catalyst Conference
- Tarheel TABLE
- Carolina KickOff (was previously named Freshman Camp)
- Community Justice, Abolition & Antiracism (CJAA)
- B3 Coffee
- Helping Youth by Providing Enrichment (HYPE)
- STEAM Outreach Achievement Recreation (SOAR)
- Sanaa and Soul
- Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)

UNC Y is a department within the UNC Student Affairs division that fosters student success through leadership development, student advisement and support, and high-impact local and global programming. Funds managed by the UNC Y department (within the Student Affairs division budget) support departmental operations, co-curricular development, and campus-wide student programming and resources, including the Bonner Leaders and Global Gap Year Fellowship program.

Brief Background of the Building

The Campus Y building has approximately 12,800 square feet of space and has three floors and a basement level. It was built in 1907 and was paid for by private funds. It had extensive renovations in the mid 2000's. Three million dollars were raised by Campus Y stakeholders for this effort. Total renovation expected to cost about \$5.2 million.

The historic YMCA building and the Campus Y Student Organization share a deep, intertwined history. Throughout most of the building's history, it has served as a catalyst for student engagement, fostering innovation and driving movements for social change. This location has witnessed and supported a wide range of student-led initiatives, from freshman orientation to campus integration, from demonstrations to service-learning, to the founding of social ventures, non-profits and beyond. The building fosters collaboration for student groups with shared missions to find support, and across differences to build coalitions. Its proximity to the town further strengthens ongoing campus and community engagement partnerships and efforts.

The first floor has the Anne Queen Faculty Commons. This space is scheduled by the Office of Faculty Governance. It is open to faculty and staff from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, including retired faculty. A One-Card is required for entry. This space can be reserved for faculty events between 2 and 5 p.m. on weekdays. The space may be reserved by faculty, staff or students for university-sponsored events or university-affiliated group meetings from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. In addition, there are staff offices on the first floor for UNC Y, a department within the Division of Student Affairs. This staff coordinates the Global Gap Year Fellowship, the Bonner Leaders Program and CUBE, a social innovation incubator as well as other campus wide student programming. There is a small conference room on this floor which is used by the UNC Y staff.

The first floor also has Meantime Coffee, a student non-profit organization, which sells coffee and snacks and uses the profits for charitable causes. They operate from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The current agreement with this organization expires in October 2024 and the committee understands that the appropriate members of the University administration, including the Office of University Counsel, are currently reviewing this agreement for renewal.

The second floor has offices and a large workroom for the student-led Campus Y organization and its 20+ student subgroups as well as one UNC Y office, used by the Global Civic Engagement staff. This floor also has a classroom for approximately 35 people, which can be divided into two spaces. The University Registrar schedules classes in this space during the academic year from 8 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. As of July 2024, it can be reserved during the afternoons, evenings and weekends by faculty, staff and recognized student groups by using the 25Live service of the Student Union. Prior to this change, space reservation was managed by the UNC Y staff. There is

a small Library (Owen's Library — named in memory of a Campus Y alum) on the second floor along with storage space.

The third floor has office space used by UNC Y staff and includes a small kitchen, storage space and the Mutual Aid Pantry operated by the Campus Y.

The basement level of the building, currently only accessible from the back of the building, has the Blue Ram Café which is operated by Carolina Dining Services. It is open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. This level also has storage space used by the UNC Y staff, the student Campus Y organization and Meantime Coffee.

The building is fully handicapped accessible.

Discussions by the Committee:

During our meetings we discussed the long and distinctive years of service by the Campus Y and its student participants. The committee noted the many contributions of this group and the positive impact it has had on the University and the surrounding community. We noted that the vast majority of their work involves community service efforts. We also discussed the fact that many of its meetings need to take place in the late afternoons, evenings and on weekends, given the typical academic schedule of students.

We noted that there are some who may question why this particular student group has dedicated space assigned to it while many other student groups must schedule space in various campus facilities when it is available. However, we were reminded that many student organizations or programs have space assigned on a permanent basis. Some of these include Student Government and the Residence Hall Association in the Student Union, the Honors Program in Graham Memorial, the various athletic facilities for student athletes, the DiPhi chambers in New West and New East, international groups in the FedEx Global Education Center, among others. We also understand that other student groups can request a two-year commitment for space in the Student Union, which is renewable. The entire 160+ year history of the Campus Y student organization has played out on campus, with over 100 years of that time in the Campus Y building. As such, the committee discussed and acknowledges the special role the place of the Campus Y has with the Campus Y student organization and the difficulty that would exist if we had one without the other in the same place.

Recommendations:

- Per your charge, we make no recommendations for changes to the Anne Queen Faculty Commons.
- We also do not make any recommendations about the Blue Ram Café, managed by University Dining Services or the University Registrar's morning scheduling during the

academic year of the classroom space on the second floor (rooms 207 and 208). There are 9 classes scheduled in these classrooms in the fall semester of 2024. When the planned campuswide review of all classroom facilities is done, we assume that this space use will be reviewed along with all others for maximum utilization.

- As mentioned previously, we are aware that there is a process in place to determine the terms and conditions of any renewal agreement with Meantime Coffee so we make no recommendations about that usage.
- The committee recommends that the space assigned to the UNC Y staff and the Campus Y be continued without change.

Hours of Operation and Access:

We understand that the current hours and authorized access for the building are as follows:

- **Public Hours:** 7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **One Card Access:** 8 to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for reservation holders only.
- **24/7 Access:** UNC Y staff, the Campus Y Executive Board, the CEO of Meantime Coffee, Housekeeping, Office of Faculty Governance, Facility Services, and Campus Police.
- **Special Access:** Campus Y Committee Chairs will be given OneCard access 8 to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

We had considerable discussion about adding additional hours for building usage. Those uses could include study time for individual students, access on the weekends and access in the evenings after 8 p.m. for others using the Food Pantry or accessing personal supplies furnished by the Campus Y, and for various other Campus Y activities. The committee recommends that if hours are added to the current building usage times for any reason, there should be appropriate staffing provided. This could be departmental staffing or student staffing as opposed to uniformed security or police. The committee recommends staffing for after-hours events but did not discuss the detailed implementation process of that staffing.

Scheduling and Governance:

For many years the scheduling of the classroom space (Rooms 207 and 208) was done by the UNC Y staff. Since the summer of 2024, this scheduling has been done by the Carolina Union via the 25Live system. We understand that one reason for making this change was so that many campus groups could utilize this space and that perhaps there was a perception that this was “Y space” and it was not available for other groups. However, according to the data we reviewed, the actual usage is not consistent with that perception. During the 2023-24 academic year, 78 different groups reserved this space or the conference room on the first floor. Forty-eight of those groups had recurring reservations. Campus Y groups had 14 reoccurring reservations;

UNC Y staff had 7 reoccurring times; faculty from other departments had 12 reoccurring reservations; and non-Campus Y undergraduate or graduate groups had 26. In other words, most of the reoccurring reservations for this space came from non-Campus Y student groups and/or non-UNC Y departmental/faculty groups. Thirty-five percent of the reservations were for Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. times, and 7% of those reservations were from student groups. Sixty-five percent of the reservations were for evening or weekend times, and 92% of those were made by student groups with the remaining mostly by UNC Y staff.

Having discussed this usage pattern we recommend that scheduling of this space be returned to the UNC Y staff instead of the Student Union via 25Live. We believe the UNC Y staff are capable of balancing the needs of the Campus Y student organization with those of outside student groups, as reflected in the data above. We do encourage an effort to make it clear that this space is available for all campus groups on a reservation-by-reservation basis.

Conclusion:

The Campus Y building, while relatively small, houses six different functions: the Anne Queen Faculty Commons, the UNC Y staff, the Campus Y student organization, Meantime Coffee, the Blue Ram Café and academic scheduling of classes by the University Registrar. These uses have worked well together for some time. The Campus Y leaders told us that many students consider this building to be a safe space. A considerable amount of campus and community service is planned and carried out in this facility. Faculty have a convenient lounge in the middle of campus. The entire University community has food and beverages available. And yes, from time to time some activist students pursue causes they feel important.

While we agree that every facility on campus should be evaluated for its highest and best use on an ongoing basis, after careful review this committee finds that the Campus Y building, with the recommendations made here, meets that highest and best use standard at this time.

We appreciate being asked to do this review of the Campus Y building.