



PHOTOS BY LEE ELLIOTT

Student activists listen as Chancellor Mary K. Grant addresses the Student Action Coalition's concerns for undocumented university students.

## Recent executive order draws action from on-campus activists

**CHARLIE HEARD**  
Sports Editor  
cheard@unca.edu

Students representing the Student Action Coalition met with Chancellor Mary K. Grant to deliver their demands for how they would like the school's administration to respond to President Trump's Executive Order "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements."

The Coalition's representatives said they want UNC Asheville to make visible efforts for its undocumented students and to be a leader in North Carolina by publicly declaring it does not support this executive order and will support immigrant students.

The members of the Coalition said the school publicly announcing this position could lead other schools in the UNC system to do the same, making the UNC system a precedent nationwide for combatting this executive order.

According to the Coalition's hand-out, "This effort is not only to show our



**Chancellor Mary K. Grant advocated protecting undocumented students.**

own undocumented students that we stand with them, but to stand in solidarity with undocumented students across our state. The UNC system must lead our nation's universities by example in this time of crisis."

**“ IN-STATE TUITION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IS BEYOND MY DIRECT CONTROL. BUT IT ISN'T BEYOND MY VOICE TO SAY THIS IS AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF STUDENTS AND FINANCIAL AID WOULD HELP.”**

— Mary K. Grant

Senior mass communication student Robin Carter was the primary spokesperson for the SAC at the meeting.

Carter said the group has been in touch with other student groups around the UNC system to jumpstart the movement for state-wide solidarity against

this executive order.

"We've been in contact with student organizations at 13 other universities across the state," Carter said. "There are students across the state that don't feel safe from ICE so we feel strongly that UNCA needs to be a leader in publicizing our stance against this. I feel as though UNCA has been a leader in this, but we want the administration to continue that and to be bold."

Carter said the SAC is an activism-based group focused on multiple issues.

"The Student Action Coalition is a group of students from various other organizations that try to help each other with their various actions based on activism," Carter said. "They work on a lot of issues apart from sanctuary, such as divestment."

At the open meeting last Monday, members of the SAC met with Chancellor Mary Grant for a discussion in an attempt to steer the school's public

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**