

# Making The Grade: Midterm Examinations

## The Daily Tar Heel

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## Daum's Tenure Lacks Student Voice

Jen Daum was inaugurated as student body president seven months ago, and her service at the helm of the student body has been marked by inconsistency. Although Daum has made great strides toward some goals, including better communication within student government's branches, she has failed to extend those efforts to the student body as a whole. Daum needs to live up to her elected responsibility.

### REPORT CARD

ISSUES	PROGRESS	COMMENTS
Develop an intimate working relationship with University administrators	Daum has created the best working relationship with UNC administrators in two years, holding regular meetings with the chancellor, provost and other officials.	It is important for Daum and administrators to get along, but Daum must remember that University officials and the student body have different priorities. In her zeal for cooperation, Daum runs the risk of losing sight of that and betraying the student body.
Build positive relationships with other student government leaders	Earlier this year, Daum held a student State of the University Address along with the leaders of the legislative and judicial branches and graduate students.	The close cooperation between the branches of student government, engineered by Daum and the other leaders, is an outstanding achievement for all of them.
Hold the Board of Trustees accountable and poll students before making tuition recommendations	Daum is co-chairwoman of the Tuition Task Force. She has not conducted a poll but has vowed to fight any tuition increase that does not allocate at least 40 percent of the revenue for need-based financial aid.	The post gives her influence but places the duty of representing students in the hands of the four student committee members. Daum's ability to follow up on her promises remains to be seen.
Boost communication between student government and the student body by holding a Student Summit	After planning to hold a Student Summit last spring that never happened, Daum has relied on a monthly news letter to improve communication with students.	The summit might be held next semester, but its benefit as Daum leaves office would be negligible. The newsletter does provide updates but does not provide an open discussion forum.
Bring back the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees to boost student voice	After encountering resistance, Daum plans to expand the role of the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor to include the Board of Trustees.	Daum's plan to expand the committee and to build a more intimate relationship between BOT members and students is an interesting proposal, but it's still in the initial planning stage.
Reform student body elections by shortening the campaign season	Student Congress has received a bill that shortens the time candidates can post signs and also provides public funding for student body president candidates.	Although questions remain about the wisdom of publicly financing campaigns, the proposed bill would limit the time candidates can post signs, which would be a positive change.
Chapel Hill Town Council's efforts to ban duplex construction	Daum and others spoke at a Town Council hearing and talked with town leaders but failed to rally student interest - leading to a freeze on duplex construction.	The issue will come up again next year - likely after Daum has left office. By passing the buck, Daum has left the next student body president a much tougher battle.
Boost student safety by expanding the number of emergency call boxes and improving lighting townwide	Additional off-campus call boxes have yet to appear and likely won't this year, but Daum said additional off-campus lighting will go up in the coming weeks.	Additional lighting can only do so much to improve safety; more emergency call boxes would have had a stronger impact on student concerns.
Create a class for students to boost their effectiveness at lobbying state legislators	A one-hour credit course in lobbying was held last semester and attracted about 30 students.	Feedback from the class indicates that it was a useful addition, but Daum left graduates to their own devices over the summer and held only two organized trips to the General Assembly.
Handling proposed revisions to the University's Honor Code	Any proposed revisions must work their way through the Committee on Student Conduct, ensuring that students will have a voice in the changes.	Daum has worked closely with Attorney General Amanda Spillman to boost understanding of the Honor Code. This effort to protect student interests should continue throughout the school year.
Work with the Curriculum Review Committee to redevelop the undergraduate program	Daum set up a seminar to solicit student opinions on the proposed changes and held one forum for students.	Daum needs to outline how the proposed changes will affect students. The proposal radically alters the curriculum, and Daum needs to ensure that the student body is well-educated.
Improve student-resident relations	Daum said she wants to go door-to-door to talk with residents and also to distribute information on noise and litter ordinances to students living off campus.	The idea has yet to be implemented but should ease the tension between students and town residents. Daum must ensure that the program gets started and that students pay attention.
Institute a bi-weekly poll of the student body to determine opinions	Daum candidly admitted during a Thursday interview that the poll was a "stupid idea" and had been abandoned.	Daum's candor is refreshing, but she should have investigated the proposal's feasibility. She also should do more to investigate the opinion of the student body rather than dismiss it. Daum's own chief of staff admitted this lack of communication is a key problem.
<b>Overall Average</b>		<b>B-</b>