

APPENDIX B

PRESIDENT BOWLES' REPORT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MAY 11, 2007

Good morning to all of you. Congratulations, Dr. Mackay, it is a high honor to have you at our University. This academic year, as Jim said, is drawing to a rapid close. Several of our campuses have commencements this weekend one actually has it today. It has been a demanding year, and I take full responsibility for that. However, I hope that this board, our chancellors, our faculty, and our staff would all agree that it has also been a productive year. We have accomplished a lot and we have accomplished all of it by working together.

President Bowles introduced several of the chancellors and representatives of affiliated organizations in attendance at the meeting and gave the board an update of the good news and accolades afforded many of the campuses.

Before I move on to other topics, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Vice President Russ Lea will be retiring at the end of this month and to publicly thank him for all that he has done to advance the research agenda at our University. Russ has really done an extraordinary job; he spent 20 years at NC State prior to coming here. He has led us in so many ways. He has accepted a position as Vice President of Research at the University of South Alabama. We hate to lose him, but they are getting a very, very good man. Thank you Russ for all that you have done.

Yesterday the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs had a very thoughtful and hearty discussion on the consultants' report of the feasibility of bringing North Carolina Wesleyan College into the University of North Carolina. I shared my thoughts with each of you last month during our conference call and you will hear more about this from Dr. Taylor this morning. While we have decided not to acquire Wesleyan College, I want to

underscore our absolute total and complete commitment to reach out in a variety of ways to the educational and economic needs of all regions of our state, including Rocky Mount. I am convinced that the University of North Carolina Tomorrow initiative is going to shed considerable light on how we can best go about achieving that worthy goal. We have offered to come together with the entire Rocky Mount and regional community to talk about how we can deliver face to face and distance education courses to Rocky Mount so that we can provide everyone useful learning. This is what we are commanded to do by the constitution of the State of North Carolina.

I want to thank Harold Martin for the support he provided to the consultants and for keeping the lines of communication open with the Rocky Mount community. He plans to go back there next week to meet with them to talk about how we go forward. I also want to thank Jim Leutze, the former chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, for his enormous leadership in this effort.

I want to make a brief comment about the budget, and I will be brief because I was anything but brief in the committee meeting yesterday. We did have long discussions about the budget yesterday in the meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance. All I need to say today is that this is a 'four-step dance'. Our students took a step forward with the governor's budget. I believe we took a step back with the house budget, but we 'ain't through dancing'. That I can promise you. We will continue to fight for our students and for the future of North Carolina. We must get more people better educated and to do that we must have the resources to provide quality faculty to these students. We will fight to our last breath to both operate this University as efficiently and effectively as possible so that we can transfer more dollars to the academic side of the house. We will also fight equally hard to get the resources we need to

ensure that our students will get the education they need to compete, and compete successfully, with the worlds' best and brightest wherever they may be. These students are our future and it is our job to go to bat for them.

Now, to the good news. Today I saved the best for last and if you think you've seen me excited before, you ain't seen nothing yet! You have heard me say many times that our faculty, like Trudy Mackay, are our University's greatest asset. They hold the key to our future in their minds. There is no such thing as a great university, without a great faculty. That is a fact, and I believe it to my very core. It is one of the facets of the prism I talked about in my inaugural address, and it the common thread running through each one of the key initiatives that we discussed yesterday.

Not long after my inauguration, a great North Carolinian, President *Emeritus* Dick Spangler came to see me and said that my comments about attracting and retaining great faculty really struck a cord with him. As many of you know, over the years Meredith and Dick Spangler and their family foundation have endowed or contributed to 37 distinguished professorships across our University. We only have 302. President Spangler obviously shares my deep convictions about our faculty. He has been a leader in our effort to upgrade our faculty over the years. He told me that he wanted to think of ways that he could do something about improving our faculty at our University. He thought long and hard over the past year about what more he could do and he came back to see me a couple of weeks ago. This morning I am absolutely thrilled to share President Spangler's stunning proposal with you. I only regret that Dick and Meredith could not be here with us today to share this with you.

The C. D. Spangler Foundation has proposed two new challenge-grant programs that together will make almost \$27 million available to support the creation of up to 96 distinguished

professorships across the 16 University of North Carolina campuses. You heard me right, \$27 million for 96 endowed professorships.

I honestly get chills just telling you about it. Can you imagine the dramatic, lasting impact 96 endowed professors could have on the academic quality of our institutions? Imagine the possibilities if we could add nearly 100 more faculty as brilliant and dedicated as Trudy Mackay. The Spangler Foundation has offered this University, and this state, a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am confident that the General Assembly, who I have already talked to about this, will help us take full advantage of the Spangler Foundation's incredible generosity.

Our campuses are preparing students to compete in what today is truly a knowledge-based global economy. That means we have an obligation to see that they are taught by world-class faculty. Nothing short of that will do. The Spanglers' gift will allow all 16 of our campuses to attract and retain the kind of talent we just can't afford with state funding alone. Now all of you on the Board of Governors know that our nine focus-growth and special needs institutions don't have the alumni or donor bases of the larger campuses. For that reason, only 60 of the existing 302 endowed chairs are at these nine campuses. These proposals guarantee these nine campuses an additional 54 distinguished professorships over the next six years. Think about it, that has the potential to transform each and every one of these faculties. I couldn't be more excited about this. All professorships endowed through the Spangler gift must be in high need fields, those fields that we have the hardest time attracting support for, teacher education, nursing, engineering, and the traditional arts and sciences. Again, think of the incredible impact this will have on our ability to attract the best and brightest students into those fields. It is President Spangler's hope that this gift will have a significant impact on each of the UNC campuses. I know it will, I know that you know it will. It is his hope that this gift will inspire

others to give generously to our campuses to help attract and retain the very best faculty in the world. Because President Spangler knows, like we all know, there is no such thing as a great university without great faculty. This is truly a great day for this University and it is a great day in the life of the state of North Carolina. Please join me in saying thank you to Dick and Meredith Spangler. *[President Bowles leads applause.]*

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks.