

## APPENDIX L

### **PRESIDENT BOWLES' REPORT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MARCH 16, 2007**

We had some very healthy and informative policy decisions yesterday and I think that is exactly what this board should be focused on. The enrollment projections that were shared are very sobering and I think they filled us with the knowledge of the important job that we have in the days and years ahead. It also underscores the importance and urgency of the PACE initiative that we have undertaken to make sure that we operate these campuses as efficiently and effectively as we possibly can. That is the only way we are going to be able to serve a growing and increasingly diverse student body. That discussion was followed in natural order on the update of the University of North Carolina Tomorrow initiative that we have going forward. Jim is going to announce today the blue ribbon commission that is being formed to lead this effort. I am confident that this will help shape this University for years and years to come.

We also discussed our UNC Online initiative that will offer one-stop access to the wide array of online degree programs offered by our campuses. Last night, Dr. Taylor and I had the chance, at the tailgate party over at the Murphy Center, to sit down with three East Carolina University honor students. All of them had taken numerous online courses from this university. Their praise for it and belief in the quality of the education they are getting from the online courses would show you that we are on the exact right path in developing UNC Online. We will be able to meet the needs for more students in North Carolina for years and years to come with this.

We also discussed our budget. I want to ask each of you in this room to do all you can in the coming days and weeks to encourage the General Assembly to pass legislation that will raise our faculty's compensation to the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of their peers. This is something that was not

included in the Governors' budget. I think there is nothing that is more important to this University than making sure we have great faculty. If we have mediocre faculty, we will produce a mediocre product. Moreover, if we produce a mediocre product, North Carolina will not be able to compete in this new knowledge-based global economy. We will not get this passed unless each of you, each of the chancellors, and each member of the boards of trustees are willing to go to the General Assembly, along with the student body, to fight for this effort. We must have great faculty. There is nothing more important. We don't need to build another building, if we are not going to have great faculty to put in those buildings. So please, I beg you, help us in this effort. It is our most important effort. If we have great faculty then it will take the pressure off tuition and we will remain more assessable and affordable and be able to offer the kind of quality education we need to compete in the knowledge-based global economy. So please, I ask you for your help in this effort.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to report the committee that was formed is making significant progress on its in-depth study assessing the feasibility of making North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount a constituent institution of the University as well as exploring other possible ways the University might help meet the tremendous educational and economic development needs of that region. I expect to receive the committee's proposal when I return to the country at the end of next week and to have it to you all by the end of the following week for your review and consideration.

That concludes my remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.