

APPENDIX A

REMARKS OF MR. ERSKINE B. BOWLES BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2005

Thank you. First let me introduce my wife of 31 years, Crandall, and my sister of a lifetime, Holly, who have both joined me today.

Before I start, I just want to look at you. I really do, I want to see if each of you in this room are as excited about this opportunity that we have together...I want to see if you feel the same sense of joy that I do because I want you to know, you will never, ever see someone who is more excited to be here than I am. But I'm not just happy to be here, I want you to know that I am honored to be here today to accept your offer to lead this great University system. You know since this University system was reborn in 1972, it's only had three leaders: the legend, Bill Friday, my hero; my compatriot and businessman from Charlotte, Dick Spangler; and now Molly Broad. Molly Broad, whose legacy you can see when you travel to each one of these universities. It is phenomenal the job she has done and I am honored to have the chance to follow her. I think we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to each of these three leaders. All three of these leaders have vastly different backgrounds, and they have different strengths. But each served our state with honor, dignity, and a real sense of purpose. Each understood the enormous trust, the enormous public trust that had been given to them. I want to assure you, so too, does Erskine Bowles.

As I told your search committee, who by the way I think did a terrific job; I honest to goodness can't imagine having another opportunity to have such a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people of North Carolina. In the years ahead of us, working together we are going to face enormous challenges and opportunities. We live in a time of limited resources and that means difficult choices, and that means difficult decisions. We live in a time of great

technological change. The world is changing so fast today that its makes that *dot com* revolution look like it moved in slow motion. We live in a time today where we face fierce global competition. Today's knowledge-based global economy relentlessly punishes the under educated, the under educated individual, community, state, and nation. North Carolina's system of higher education must be up for meeting that challenge. The public trust that we in this room, all of us together, the public trust that we have been given requires that each of us meet this challenge, and meet it head on. My goal is to make us a team, not a board, not an administration, but one team working together to make sure that the 196,000 students we are responsible for gain the knowledge they will need to succeed in both life and work.

Over the next three month, during this period of transition, with President Broad's help, I will be visiting each of our campuses. I will have a chance to meet and listen to the chancellors, the faculty, the students, and the trustees. I also will take the time to meet with our elected leaders on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats. I am going to make sure that I visit with each of you, each member of the Board of Governors, individually. What I want to do is to pick your brains. I want a chance to learn what you think, based on the experience you've had, what you believe are the biggest problems, challenges, and opportunities that we face in the years to come. And come January 1st, I promise you that I will be prepared to accept this enormous public trust and I will be prepared to lead this great University system to a very, very bright future. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to serve.