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**PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

April 8, 2011

President Ross commented that he was extremely impressed with the recipient of the 2011 Oliver Max Gardner Award – Dr. Dianne Browder. Anyone watching the video honoring Dr. Browder, could only feel good about the future of our University. He noted that we were truly blessed to have some of the best faculty in the world teaching and conducting research right here in North Carolina. Research conducted on our campuses really *does* matter and it has the power to transform lives and communities for the better.

Next, President Ross mentioned his ongoing campus visits. The visits were a real highlight of his job and he has enjoyed them thoroughly. He recognized the quality of leadership at each of our campuses and the amazing work taking place on the campuses.

Next, President Ross recognized many recent campus achievements. He noted the rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report*. At UNC-Chapel Hill, the School of Information and Library Science retained its #1 ranking in the nation; the Gillings School of Global Public Health was ranked #2. The Schools of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill and at East Carolina University both ranked in the Top 10 for primary care. The School of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill was ranked #2 in family medicine. At North Carolina State University, the School of Veterinary Medicine tied for third best. North Carolina Central University School of Law was named one of the nation's 10 "most popular" law schools. The listing was based on the percentage of students accepted by the school who choose to enroll.

At Fayetteville State University, Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem, Professor of Plant Biology, has received a \$573,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to study how to grow healthier soy beans. At North Carolina A&T State University and in collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill, a team of food scientists received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop hypoallergenic peanuts; this research could have a huge commercial potential for the agriculture and food product industries in our state. The North Carolina A&T State University choir recently performed at the White House in celebration of Black History Month. The John William Pope Foundation of Raleigh gave UNC-Chapel Hill a \$3 million gift to upgrade facilities providing academic support to Carolina's student-athletes. At the University of North

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Carolina at Charlotte, construction of the new Center City Building was nearing completion. In the fall 2011, students in UNC Charlotte's MBA program and other graduate programs will be attending classes in the new building; this would be the first UNC classroom building to be constructed in the heart of an urban center.

Dr. Kyle Carter would officially be installed as Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke on April 15, 2011. President Ross remarked that he looked forward to attending this special occasion.

The debut volume from Lookout Books – the literary imprint of the Department of Creative Writing at UNC Wilmington – was greeted with rave reviews by the *New York Times*. The book, *Binocular Vision: New & Selected Stories*, by Edith Pearlman, was featured on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*. Students were involved in every step of publishing this book.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) recently received the largest-ever private gift – a \$6 million grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust to permanently endow full four-year scholarships. UNCSA's musical performance of *Oklahoma* will open on April 28 and President and Mrs. Ross will co-chair the Boots & Bandanas Gala on April 29. All proceeds will go to student scholarships. In addition, the famous American musical theatre and film composer, Alan Menken, will be the commencement speaker at UNCSA's spring commencement.

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics broke the Guinness World Record for the most food ever collected by a non-charitable organization during a 24-hour period in a single location. In total, the food drive officially collected 559,885 lbs. of food for distribution to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

Next, President Ross thanked outgoing Senior Vice President Mabe, who had retired last month, for his outstanding service. Moreover, President Ross thanked Vice President Leath, Senior Associate Vice President Mallette, and Associate Vice President Chapman, for taking on additional responsibilities in Academic Affairs until a new senior vice president was aboard. President Ross announced that Dr. Suzanne Ortega, Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of New Mexico, would be joining our leadership team as Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2011. President Ross thanked Provost Joan Lorden, UNC

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Charlotte, who chaired the search committee for this critically important position. He thanked the other provosts who participated in the interview process as well. President Ross remarked that he was thrilled to have Dr. Ortega join us.

President Ross mentioned that he has visited a total of 13 campuses and all the affiliated institutions. Remaining campus visits included Appalachian State University, Elizabeth City State University, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Wilmington. In addition, President Ross visited Ft. Bragg and Camp Lejeune. There he received a briefing on the University's partnerships with the military and spoke with many soldiers and marines, who work with and attend UNC institutions. President Ross noted that our work with the military community is extremely important and that he would provide a more comprehensive update about our partnership with the military in the near future. He acknowledged Vice President Rhinehardt for her outstanding work with the military.

On his campus visits, President Ross commended the employees for their dedication in serving our students despite the fact that several employees have had to take on additional duties due to budget reductions. It was impressive to go into the classrooms and witness the powerful teaching and learning taking place. President Ross had met with students at each of the campuses. He acknowledged that these students were the future leaders of North Carolina and that the University must ensure they have the same opportunity that was extended to previous generations – the chance to receive a high quality, affordable University of North Carolina education. Our reputation of being one of the best universities in America took two centuries to build, and we must continue to fight hard to protect it.