

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

April 12, 2013

President Ross thanked Chancellor Carter and his staff for hosting the Board of Governors meetings this week and allowing all of us to be a part of UNC Pembroke's 125th anniversary celebration. Having had the opportunity to tour the campus and hear more about its various academic activities, research and outreach initiatives was an eye-opening experience and underscores how integral each of our campuses, particularly UNC Pembroke, has been and continues to be to the economy and civic life of this community. President Ross remarked that the University was truly blessed to have some of the best faculty in the world teaching and conducting life-changing, transformative research on our campuses as evidenced by this year's Oliver Max Gardner recipient, Dr. Sears. It is evident that teaching, research and public service on our campuses are of utmost importance. They have the power to transform lives and communities for the better. President Ross congratulated Dr. Sears for the outstanding work and research that he conducts to improve the lives of others.

Next, President Ross recognized the Chancellors and thanked them for their continued leadership. This marked Chancellor Becton's last Board meeting as interim Chancellor at North Carolina Central University. President Ross extended his thanks to Chancellor Becton for his distinguished service to the University. The campus could not have been in more capable, trusted hands. Chancellor Becton is a great North Carolinian, who has a distinguished career of public service, and the University was very fortunate to have had his leadership during the transition period.

Regarding several recent campus accomplishments and milestones, President Ross reported that Nealie McLean, a retired educator and Fayetteville State University (FSU) alumna, had made a \$30,000 donation to FSU in honor of her late husband. Mrs. McLean made a donation to establish the Dexter and Nealie McLean Endowed Scholarship. Her goal was to contribute \$100,000 to support the band and athletic scholarships. North Carolina A&T State University (NCA&TSU) was awarded a five-year, \$1.76 million grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to establish a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics

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(STEM) Center of Excellence for Active Learning. The grant supports two strategic pipeline programs at the high school and pre-freshman levels for students with a strong foundation in the STEM fields. Chancellor Martin recently received the 2013 Leo M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award from the North Carolina Campus Compact – a network of 42 colleges and universities throughout the state that facilitates and supports service learning and community service. North Carolina State University’s Friday Institute for Educational Innovation launched a massive open online course or (MOOC-Ed) for K-12 educators – a free online course aimed at giving business administrators help in using technology to meet their schools’ needs. Classes for the course had more than 2,000 registered participants from 50 countries. At UNC-Chapel Hill, Chancellor Thorp had been named chair of the new National Research Council Committee tasked with helping to promote a cultural of safety and academic laboratory research. Chancellor Thorp was recently honored with the establishment of the Chancellor Holden Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars Endowment at the Carolina Center for Public Service. The endowment was created with a \$1 million donation from an anonymous donor. The Center’s Faculty Engaged Scholars program will help faculty from across the campus develop and strengthen their teaching and research in ways that benefit communities throughout North Carolina.

At UNC Charlotte (UNCC), Belk, Inc. had pledged \$5 million to UNCC’s Belk College of Business over the next five years. The gift was the largest in the history of the business college, named in honor of the Belk family and organization. The gift would support an endowed professorship in business innovation, an endowed chair in marketing analytics, a Belk’s scholars program and faculty research and teaching awards. Five UNC campuses – Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington and UNC School of the Arts – were recognized by the National Weather Service for weather-related emergency preparedness known as “StormReady.” This designation was created to assist communities with the communication safety skills needed during severe weather events.

President Ross announced that given the success of last year’s inaugural UNC Social Business Conference that featured the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the 2014 Social Entrepreneur Conference was being planned for the spring. At last year’s Conference, a team of students from North Carolina State University won the Social Business Conference competition for their creation of *Pennies 4 Progress* business plan. The team was

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selected as semi-finalists in a Hong Kong Polytechnic University Global Student Challenge. They were one of only seven teams from the United States chosen to compete in this international competition. The competition would be held in June. The team would be accompanied by a NCSU professor.

President Ross announced that this marked Vice President and General Counsel Fjeld's last meeting. Vice President Fjeld had decided to step down at the end of the month to spend more time with her family and explore other opportunities. President Ross praised her for her exemplary work and stated that she had been an invaluable resource to our campuses and to this Board. President Ross wished her all the best in her future endeavors. A search for her position would be launched soon. Associate Vice President Shanahan would serve as interim General Counsel. Next, President Ross thanked Vice President Rhinehardt and her team for their outstanding presentation on the University's work and outreach efforts with our military. President Ross thanked the Honorable Gov. McCrory for joining us at the previous day's policy discussion session and taking time to meet with the Board of Governors. Gov. McCrory was supportive of the University's Strategic Plan and recognizes the impact that our institutions have to our state and to its people.

President Ross provided an update on the student health care insurance plan. Proposals from potential insurance providers were received in February. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina was selected as the student health care provider beginning with the 2013-14 academic year. Their pricing was the best among the finalists and actually lower than the current provider.

Lastly, President Ross commented on the University's Strategic Plan. He and his team have reviewed the details of all the tasks outlined in the plan and work was progressing. Key activities were ongoing and he would continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress. He reminded everyone of the 2nd Annual Chancellors' Cup Golf Tournament sponsored by the UNC Staff Assembly. The event was scheduled for June 12, 2013, and he encouraged the Board members and the Chancellors to participate in this worthy cause that benefits the Janet B. Royster memorial Staff Scholarship Fund.