

## APPENDIX FF

### **REMARKS OF DR. CHARLIE NELMS BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING JUNE 8, 2007**

To the members of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the Trustees of North Carolina Central University, ladies and gentleman, and I hope someday I will be able to say, friends. It is with enormous gratitude, humility, and enthusiasm that I accept the mantle of leadership as the 10<sup>th</sup> chief executive officer of North Carolina Central University.

Building on the solid foundation laid by Chancellor Ammons and others who preceded me, let me assure you that I am fully committed to using my experience, my passion, my network, and my Arkansas work ethic to assist North Carolina Central University in achieving new levels of excellence and responsiveness. Doing so however, requires collaborative work on all our parts. This is not something I can do by myself. We have to all work together. Therefore, as we proceed down this road I hope we will have the same level of enthusiasm, excitement, and support as we have today.

Believing as I do that education is the engine of opportunity; my highest priority is to increase student persistence, success, and graduation. I should tell you that your confirmation vote affirms a lifelong aspiration of mine. When I graduated from what was then Arkansas Agricultural Mechanical and Normal College, now called the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, nearly 4 decades ago, I was determined to learn as much as I could about higher education and to return someday to an HBCU (Historically Black College and University) to use that experience to help the institution achieve its mission. Therefore, your vote today brings me full circle and I am delighted. I'm absolutely enthusiastic about using all that I have learned and working as hard as I can, along with others, to make North Carolina Central University a

destination institution, not only for North Carolinians, but also for people around this country. I am grateful for this opportunity.

My spouse and friend of 38 years, Jeanetta, is here. She was my mathematics tutor back then when I was struggling. We have certainly been many places together and she is someone who shares my enthusiasm and passion for trying to leave the world just a little bit better than we found it. We look forward to becoming a member of the family, not just being the chancellor of North Carolina Central University, but being a member of the university family. Thank you so very much, we look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the months and years ahead.