

APPENDIX M

REMARKS OF DR. JAMES L. OBLINGER BOG MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2004

President Broad, Chairman Wilson, members of the Board of Governors, Chairman Blank, members of the North Carolina State University Board of Trustees, Governor Jordan and members of the search committee, Interim Chancellor Barnhardt, colleagues and friends who are here today - I am deeply honored to have been chosen as the thirteenth chancellor of North Carolina State University.

I want to begin by expressing a very special thank you to Bob Barnhardt. First as Interim Provost, and now as Interim Chancellor, he has not simply maintained what was entrusted to his care, he has truly moved us forward, and Bob we thank you for that.

Since Marye Anne Fox announced her departure, one of the most often asked questions has been, "Can we maintain our momentum?" I am here to tell you that the answer is an unequivocal, "Yes, absolutely yes." You will see and experience that for yourselves. I first learned about NC State's record of achievement when I was in graduate school. North Carolina State University clearly embodied the land grant mission and has grown to epitomize a 21st century research extensive institution. One of the things that have always stayed with me is the respect with which faculty at other institutions, business people, and others talk about NC State. They know that we have something special here, and they know that we are worth watching.

I count myself very fortunate. I was able to come to NC State 18 years ago and once Diana and I arrived, we knew that this was home. Although much of that desire had to do with NC State, it also had to do with the people of this great state and the importance they assign to education. At NC State we are particularly proud of many things. You will have to allow me a

moment to brag. Our undergraduate and graduate students are bright, talented, and working hard to make the future better. Our faculty is committed to a broad range of scholarship, and has responded in so many ways, such as: enhancing teaching and learning experiences for our students, increasing funding from grants and contracts, developing intellectual property, and supporting economic development across this great state. Our staff, who enable much of what we do, bring a level of dedication to our institutional mission that is outstanding. Our alumni, our friends, and our partners are loyal. They have been important to our past, they are vital to us now, and they are imperative to our future success.

Citizens of this great state appreciate what NC State brings to them. Through the years I have heard from many who have told me that they owe their livelihood and their future to NC State. Sometimes it is because of a son, daughter, niece, or nephew who received a first class education at NC State. Sometimes it is a person who has been touched by the practical advice provided through one of our extension facilities across the state, or touched by 4-H, or other engagement activities. Sometimes it is the innovation and economic development that emanates from our research laboratories or our centennial campus. And sometimes, it is the pride, the spirit, and the camaraderie that is tapped by our Wolfpack athletic teams. I also think about our legislators who have faced, and will continue to face, tough decisions impacting our future. In spite of the economic environment of late, education continues to be a legislative priority. For this, we all are grateful. I think about our four sons, and all that NC State has done for them, both personally and professionally. And I think about how I have been able to grow, thanks to NC State. All of this is my way of telling you just how important the future of NC State is to me and to you. And I know how important it is to everyone in this state. I have thought a lot about where NC State has been, where we are going, and how we will get there. Over the coming

days, weeks, and years, you will hear me speak about four themes. First, scholarship to meet the needs of the 21st century across all our disciplines. Secondly, a culture of innovation that permeates our portfolio of activities, whether it is in teaching and learning, research, or extension. Thirdly, a committed campus exemplified by inclusiveness and diversity of people and programs. And fourthly, operational capability and organizational effectiveness. These are not just elements of a vision, they are commitments. Vision without execution is simply an illusion. I will give everything that I have to be sure that this vision becomes a reality for NC State, but I know that I can not do this alone. I know that the students, faculty, and staff, as well as our alumni, our partners and our friends, will join me and Diana in doing what it takes to reach these goals. Relationships are what this is all about and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. There is a Native American saying that may sound a bit like a cliché, but it is what I believe. *“The strength of the pack is in the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is in the pack.”* That is why we are the Wolfpack, and that is why I am so honored to have been chosen as chancellor of North Carolina State University. Thank you very much.