

APPENDIX O

State of Alumni Address Presented to UNC Board of Governors

February 13, 2004

Misty Hathcock, President, Council of UNC Alumni Association Presidents

Report presented by Vice President Shelby Strother in the absence of Ms. Hathcock

Good Morning. Chairman Wilson, President Broad, Members of the UNC Board of Governors, Chancellors of the UNC campuses, UNC staff, and distinguished guests: It is my pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the Council of UNC Alumni Association Presidents. Chairman Wilson, our appreciation to you and the Board for allowing us time to present the Council's State of Alumni address.

The Council is both pleased and proud to share with you our alumni view of various matters concerning the UNC System. We are now going on 14 years as an organization formed to serve the University in ways beyond that which our individual Universities could do. As an organization made up of elected Alumni officials, we are independent of the University system in that individually or collectively we do not receive public funds. However, we are always thankful for ex-officio support from our Alumni executives.

Although independent, we represent over 900,000 system alumni and we do have something that money can't buy - a love for the State of North Carolina and for this University system.

You may ask what the Council has been doing since we last addressed you a year ago. We have continued working through our individual jobs and attempted to serve the University. Our officers in particular are active in educational leadership roles in North Carolina from Teaching Fellows to Principal Fellows to Charter Schools to Closing the Achievement Gap to GEAR-UP North Carolina. In the latter role the Council is one of seven partners in the growing Gear-Up program in North Carolina – a program intended for preparing middle and high school students for college.

Specifically we have:

- Participated in the Annual College Access Conference sponsored by UNC General Administration
- Met with numerous Executive and Legislative Leaders and Members on matters from the current budget to the Legislative Review Process on the University and Board of Governors
- On three occasions met with and provided letters to each member of the Legislature, once in the budget formation process, once during the Joint-Conference process, and finally with a formal "Thank-You" letter after the session
- Prepared "University Basketballs" and honored DPI Superintendent Ward, Governor Easley, and Legislative Leaders (Joint Speakers Black and Morgan and Senator Basnight) in the name of our University Alumni
- Increased our efforts to reach out to all Alumni Associations through enhanced communications related to Public Affairs (the Council would like to express it's thanks to

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Mr. Babb, chairman of the Committee on Public Affairs, for inviting a representative of the Council to attend the committee meeting)

- Embarked on a marketing campaign to promote the Council
- Endeavored to make the Council more about Alumni Affairs
- Finally, we are proposing to North Carolina's State Leaders the possibility of utilizing our alumni base to support non-financial Economic Development Initiatives in acquiring new businesses or protecting institutions such as our military bases.

Some in the Legislature have asked why the Council doesn't take a strong stand on various issues raised by some of our individual Universities. While each of us may have our own personal opinions and loyalties, the simple answer is the Council is here to support the total University system. We support positions taken by the Administration and Board of Governors.

We have also had a Legislative question about the Council's position on the size and makeup of the Board of Governors. We intentionally do not have one.

We do have strong commitments to issues like management flexibility, protection of overhead receipts, increased faculty and staff salaries, and the recognition of future bond needs. We heard and took heed of Chairman Wilson's charge to you and to us last August.

We know you have tough decisions to make and are confident that in making those decisions you are consciously mindful of the best interests of all parties involved. The decisions you make are not always easy, but we as the Council support you in those tough choices.

You are a board with a mission – you lead the University system in the education of North Carolina's future. Even though we are living in a time of change, courage, compassion, and commitment are still values we live by that never change. All of us are partners in this great endeavor.

So we're here again this morning stating the Council of UNC Alumni Association Presidents has "no other reason for being" than to create a higher level of support for the University System, as well as North Carolina's educational endeavors and changing economy. The Council is at your service and we recognize and thank you for your service through the UNC Board of Governors.

On behalf of Misty Hathcock, I would like to say, that she has been honored to have served as the Council's President for the past two years. The collective and individual support she has received is graciously appreciated. It is her hope that the association between the Council and the Board of Governors continues and grows stronger. She thanks you for your words of wisdom and encouragement, as well as your guidance and leadership.

That's the serious part. In closing I would like to call upon the Council's Executive Director Bob Kennel for a presentation of the completion to his series of "Education Balls".