

## APPENDIX Q

### REMARKS OF DR. KENNETH EDWARD PEACOCK BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2004

Wow! I am sure that each of you, if you look back on your life, can identify certain defining moments. A moment when something happens and you realize that your life is being changed forever. It's being enriched, perhaps is more challenging, but the bottom line, it's better. For Rosanne and me, this is one of those defining moments. President Broad, Chairman Wilson, members of the UNC Board of Governors, Chairman Fox, members of the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees, chancellors and friends, especially these friends here from Boone, I am honored, truly honored and indeed humbled to have been selected to serve the students, the faculty, the staff, the alumni, and the citizens of Boone and North Carolina as the next chancellor of Appalachian State University. From its very beginnings, Appalachian has fulfilled a mission of education, scholarship, and public service supporting the educational needs of the people of the western piedmont and northwest North Carolina in particular. What a joy it has been for Rosanne and me to be part of the Appalachian family and the Boone community for the past 21 years. Serving Appalachian and our students as a professor, as a college dean, and most recently as a provost, has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Especially with this University developing so dramatically in recent years, growing in stature and gaining national, and yes, even international recognition for the quality of programs and instruction. At the same time Appalachian has grown in service to the citizens of our state and our region in so many vital ways. I strongly endorse and will work diligently to support the core values that have made Appalachian State the premier comprehensive university that it is today; a tradition of excellence in undergraduate education, small classes, and a student-centered learning environment supported by a caring and committed faculty and staff. ASU promotes affordable access for all qualified North Carolina students, academic support programs designed to ensure student success, outstanding graduate programs in select fields of study, distinctive educational outreach through cooperative programs with the region's community colleges and sister UNC institutions and a strong commitment to the growth and development of our state and

region. I have enjoyed many opportunities to learn and grow under the leadership and vision of two Appalachian chancellors, Frank Borkowski and John Thomas, whose hard work and determination helped forge many of the university's recent successes. Appalachian and its students have also benefited from the untiring efforts of faculty, staff, administrators, and a growing number of loyal alumni and friends. Dr. Borkowski and Dr. Thomas have left a powerful and lasting legacy and a daunting challenge. I embrace that challenge with enthusiasm and excitement. I would also be remiss not to recognize the long-term academic leadership of Harvey Durham. Harvey Durham, who was interim chancellor since last June, has paved the way for the next chancellor. Harvey Durham, a gentleman in the truest sense, a gentleman for whom I have the highest regard personally and professionally. He never talked about commitment; he demonstrated it everyday during his 39 years of unselfish service. Let me also acknowledge the leadership of Appalachian's Board of Trustees, President Broad and her colleagues, and the UNC Board of Governors. For more than two centuries North Carolina has been recognized as a leader in higher education due in large measure to dedicated citizens like you and those who preceded you. How blessed we are to live in a state where citizens and legislators alike understand the value and the benefits derived from excellence in higher education. Finally, I thank the members of the Chancellor Search Committee for their hard work over many months, their hard work in conducting a very thorough and a professional search. By your action today, you have entrusted the leadership of a truly outstanding educational institution to me. I realize that your expectations and the expectations of the entire Appalachian family are quite high. Let me assure you of my unwavering commitment to exceed those expectations. Rosanne and I, as a team, will work diligently to preserve the very best of Appalachian's rich heritage, to work with the faculty, the staff and the external partners in developing new programs that meet the needs of our great state and our changing world, and to build an even stronger future for this great University and the people it serves. I stand here today with a dream. My dream is that one day, as historians look back on this day, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004, that this day will prove to be as much of a defining moment in the life of this great University, as it is in the lives of Rosanne and Ken Peacock. Thank you very much.