

APPENDIX R

State of the Alumni Address Presented to UNC Board of Governors
February 14, 2003

Misty Hathcock, President, Council of UNC Alumni Association Presidents

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board of Governors, Madam President, Chancellors of the UNC campuses, distinguished guests: It is my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of the Alumni Council of Presidents. Mr. Chairman, our appreciation to you and the Board for allowing us time in your meeting to present the alumni council's report.

I would like to begin by recognizing our officers and alumni representatives who are present today.

Vice President – Shelby Strother – East Carolina University

Secretary – Eric Powell – Western Carolina University

Treasurer – Dwight Pearson – UNC Pembroke

Executive Director – Bob Kennel – NC State University

- (introduce alumni representatives in audience)

President – Misty Hathcock – UNC Charlotte

The Alumni state of affairs regarding the University of North Carolina is in excellent shape. We have active alumni programs in all 16 of our individual universities working for the good of their respective institutions. Our Council seeks to extend that outstanding work toward a broader vision of UNC alumni beyond any individual university interest.

Brief History of Council:

We are now in our 13th year like that of a precocious teen. The Council is made up of the Presidents, Vice Presidents, and immediate Past Presidents of each of our 16 constituent Universities along with our Alumni Executive Directors as ex-officio members. Our officers are elected annually with our Executive Director position appointed by the President. We have met on all 16 campuses, some as many as five times to date.

We were formed in 1990 to give Alumni a voice at the UNC System level, particularly in response to the advent of the Institutional Advancement model. We recognized that Alumni would be both the “askees” as well as the “askers” for significantly more private money with both state and federal monies decreasing and business in a recession. We also knew we had one thing that money couldn’t buy, and that was a love for and loyalty to our individual universities.

We have been at our best when we could do something with unanimous concurrence, such as:

- Supporting the 1993 University Bond Issue which passed on a very tight vote,
- Developing the “Evening with the Five Living Governors” on UNCTV in 1994

- Putting on the system wide “Friday! Friday! Friday! Celebration” honoring William and Ida Friday in 1996
- Hosting a Panama Canal Cruise honoring the Fridays in 1996 which also allowed all of our 16 University Alumni Associations to develop travel programs
- Supporting the 2000 Higher Education Bond Issue which passed by a wide vote
- Became a partner in developing GEAR-UP North Carolina grant and program
- Honoring educational leaders with “University Basketballs” and highest leadership with “Enabler” bronze statues.
- Numerous meetings, receptions, letters, and Council resolutions over the past decade with NC Legislators in Raleigh and in their home districts on budget and other matters of importance to the University (and with the recognition of many more to come)

In the mid-1990’s we began to be more proactive for the University by setting up University Promotional meetings in those rural counties that had not supported the 1993 University Bonds, as well as hosting annual basketball-shooting information booths at the NC State Fair. However, a conscious decision was made that our individual Alumni Presidents and Executive Directors had their plates already sufficiently filled so the Council elected to take a positive “response mode” supporting the

University's needs rather than a "proactive mode". We now formally meet twice a year plus other meetings as needed, but our Council commitment to the UNC system remains just as strong as our commitments to our own individual Universities.

Current Activities

We continue to be knowledgeable of the statewide issues in education with the UNC Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and the NC Legislature. In particular our officers are personally and separately involved at a management level in all aspects of education in North Carolina from our individual University work to Teaching Fellows, Principal Fellows, "Closing the Achievement Gap", GEAR-UP North Carolina, Charter Schools, NCCBI Education Committee, and Retired Teachers.

The Council continues to work as a partner with GEAR-UP NC and follow-up programs. We continue to honor educational leaders around the state with "University Basketballs" including newly created ones for their unique programs. We continue to work with NC Legislators on a non-lobbying basis to help the UNC System on tough budget issues as well as protection of the authority of the Board of Governors. We also recognize that our individual Alumni Associations have more difficult

times when budgets are tight as well, and too many of our Alumni Associations are in searches for new Executive Directors.

But this much you can take to the bank! Our Alumni Associations will persevere and prosper! We are becoming more numerous with over 900,000 alumni who recognize and support the larger picture and larger need for better education in North Carolina. Today we would like to reaffirm the support of the Council and our alumni representatives for the good of the UNC system.

In conclusion we wish to again express our support for the UNC System and to thank you for the work you are doing as the Board of Governors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board of Governors, Madam President, and Chancellors for being in the forefront in education not only in the State of North Carolina, but for providing an example and sending a signal to the rest of the country that North Carolina will be prepared with the faculty, tools, and facilities needed to provide a quality education to deserving students. I would like to thank my Fellow Alumni Presidents, both past and present, who have put aside their loyalty for their individual schools to come together to work for a common goal. I thank the Alumni Directors at each of the UNC campuses who not only keep us informed about internal university issues but are also our liaisons as well as support system. Again, I wish

to express my appreciation for the honor of bringing greetings on behalf of the Alumni Council of Presidents.

As I conclude, we do have one “University Basketball” presentation to be made, and I would like to ask Bob Kennel if he would come forward. He’s no longer Mr. Basketball, but former Secretary Betty Rae McCain says he has morphed into Mr. Cultural Arts.