

APPENDIX N

Molly Corbett Broad
President's Report to the Board of Governors
UNC General Administration Building Board Room
January 11, 2001
11:30 a.m.

[Due to time constraints, only an abbreviated version of these remarks was offered during the Board meeting.]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I trust that during the recent holiday season, each of you found some quiet opportunity to reflect on the historic and sobering events of the year 2001 and to recharge for the year ahead. We have had a very full and productive schedule of meetings this week, and your discussions of yesterday and this morning underscore the fact that a number of challenging issues await this board's attention during 2002.

Recent Campus Honors and Recognitions

- The National Science Foundation and the Shodor Education Foundation—a non-profit organization based in North Carolina and dedicated to the advancement of science and math education—recently announced a three-year, \$2.75-million grant to create the National Computational Science Institute. (Through national workshops, videoconferences, and other support activities, NCSI will help integrate the hands-on use of computational science, numerical modeling, and data visualization tools across the undergraduate curriculum.) We are very proud that one of the principal investigators on the national project is Dr. Holly Hirst, a member of the mathematics faculty at Appalachian State University. Our North Carolina Supercomputing Center at MCNC will provide supercomputing time, staff consulting, and the use of training and video facilities in support of this important new project. The goal of the National Science Foundation in this national initiative is to demonstrate that even our smallest campuses or those farthest away from the supercomputers can gain ready access to these highly valuable and sophisticated tools.

- Since we last met, Chancellor Marye Anne Fox of North Carolina State University was appointed by President Bush to serve on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching—along with CASE, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education—recently named Dr. Laura Kaplan of UNC Charlotte as the 2001 U.S. Professor of the Year. Since joining the UNCC psychology faculty in 1989, Dr. Kaplan has taught courses from the pre-freshman to the graduate level. Along the way, she has received UNCC's Faculty Woman of the Year Award and the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. And last spring—in what I like to consider a prophetic decision—the UNC Board of Governors honored Dr. Kaplan as UNC Charlotte's recipient of its Excellence in Teaching Award. With her selection, UNC Charlotte earned distinction as the nation's first and only university to have *three* U.S. Professors of the Year serving on its faculty. This is a tremendous honor that brings luster not only to UNC Charlotte, but also to the entire University.
- I had the great pleasure several weeks ago to join Chancellor John Bardo, Chancellor Jim Woodward, and North Carolina Congressmen Charles Taylor and Mel Watt in announcing Federal funding for a partnership in ultra-high technologies between Western Carolina University and UNC Charlotte. The 2002 federal budget passed by Congress includes \$5 million for Western and \$2 million for UNC Charlotte. The underlying goal is to maximize shared resources in a manner that helps jumpstart and nurture economic development in the western part of our state. This agreement provides support for centers at UNC Charlotte in Precision Metrology and Optoelectronics and the establishment of a Center for Integrative Technologies at Western Carolina—and will focus on the opportunities for collaboration among the faculty of these two campuses.
- I am also pleased to report to you that earlier this week, an agreement was reached with Internet2 that enables all UNC campuses, as well as the state's elementary, middle, and high schools; community colleges and private universities; libraries; and museums to connect to Internet2's high-speed, advanced network. The goal, of course, is to foster greater access, collaboration, and innovation across all education sectors. This is a key milestone in our efforts to extend the educational benefits of technology to all parts of our state.

Final Reflections on the 2001 Legislative Sessions

As was noted during the report of the Committee on Public Affairs, the General Assembly finally adjourned on December 6, bringing to closure the longest legislative session in state history. Let me reiterate that under the economic circumstances, I believe this was an exceptionally positive session for the University, one that would not have been possible without this Board's active and sustained advocacy and involvement. I also must express our deepest appreciation to the legislative leadership and to our many friends in both Houses of the General Assembly for their support of historic legislation to reform public construction law—Senate Bill 914. The long-term benefits of this legislation will be reflected for decades to come in our ability to carry out our Bond Construction Program on time and within budget. While putting in place appropriate safeguards and measures of accountability, it at long last gives our chancellors the tools and flexibility they need to manage this massive construction program in an efficient, cost-effective manner. The bill's many benefits also will extend to our non-appropriated construction projects. State Treasurer Richard Moore assured me earlier this week that the next round of our construction bonds will be issued in coming days. Construction activity in each of the regions where components of UNC are located are benefiting from the economic stimulus it provides.

Through a special provision, the General Assembly also responded to our calls for greater operating flexibility in several other areas. In adopting a policy for granting management flexibility to appoint and fix compensation, this board has today taken another important step in ensuring that our chancellors have the managerial authority—within appropriate limits set by this Board—needed to recruit and retain the very best faculty and administrators. This is an issue of ongoing interest within the legislature, and securing additional flexibility for the entire University will remain an area of positive focus as we move forward in 2002.

As we catch our breath and look to the “short” session, we are mindful that the state's economic health remains tenuous and uncertain. Under the best of scenarios, we know that we once again will be called upon to meet skyrocketing enrollment demand in a period of scarce financial resources. In the months ahead, we must remain focused on our highest legislative priorities, including:

- Full funding for UNC enrollment growth for students served on-campus and at a distance; and
- additional need-based aid for North Carolina residents attending UNC.

Departure of UNC Secretary Rosalind Fuse-Hall

And finally, since the day he arrived at North Carolina Central University last summer, Chancellor James Ammons has been working with dispatch to put in place a top-notch management team equipped to lead that campus through a pivotal period of growth and transformation. Most recently, Chancellor Ammons extended to UNC Secretary Rosalind Fuse-Hall an offer to become his Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, effective January 28. Roz has shared with me her strong desire to pursue this new career opportunity, a desire supported today by your formal approval of this appointment.

For the past eight years, Roz has served as the primary liaison between UNC's President, the Board of Governors, and the boards of trustees, and she has carried out that important responsibility with both diplomacy and enthusiasm. This new position offers an exciting opportunity for Roz to advance professionally, and she is eager to work side-by-side with Chancellor Ammons in shaping the future of one of our important focuses-growth institutions.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.