

APPENDIX S

Excerpts from Remarks by Mary K. Grant Chancellor-Elect, University of North Carolina at Asheville UNC Board of Governors Meeting August 1, 2014

“It is truly an honor and privilege to be here with all of you. I thank the teams that helped with this – I met so many wonderful people during this process – Debbie Robertson, Ann Lemmon, Lynn Spaight, and Christy Williams. I want to thank my team back at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) – the incredible folks I serve with in that part of the world – Denise Richardello, Marianne Drake, Bernadette Lupo, Ginger Menard, and Tyler Fairbank, Chairman of MCLA’s Board of Trustees. I want to thank the Board of Governors for your support and your selection – *you have made a brilliant choice.*

I spoke with several members of Board of Governors and I had wonderful conversation with Chairman Fennebresque and Vice Chairman Bissette. The group at UNC General Administration is spectacular. Thank you to President Ross – for the great conversation and the promise that he will teach me how to fly fish, and I want to extend a warm thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees from UNC Asheville. I cannot thank you enough for your confidence and your support. Chairman Prather and Vice Chairman Orr I thank you for your leadership and look forward to meeting and getting to know know the entire Board. And thank you to the members of the Search Committee – you made this possible because you opened up my eyes to this special institution in ways that I didn’t even know yet – so thank you for welcoming me, embracing us and showing us this institution that we look forward to calling home. It is a privilege. This institution has incredible faculty, staff, and leaders and is highly regarded on a national scene in public liberal arts education and in public higher education and I look forward to working with all of you. And the students – what can I say? Thank you for what you do in for making a big difference for me. I cannot thank enough my friend, Chancellor Anne Ponder. She is a wise woman in higher education and spectacularly gifted in how she thinks, works and treats others. I have learned so much from Anne Ponder. I know going into these roles we don’t fill shoes, we stand on shoulders – thank you Anne, your shoulders are strong, your roots are deep, and I will try not to mess things up.

This is an opportunity as President Ross mentioned in my background, that I am the first in my family to complete a four-year degree and it is a pathway that leads me here to the

beautiful state of North Carolina that has the oldest and most highly regarded public education system in the country and I am grateful to be part of this work as we go forward. The need has never been stronger for the work that we do and I will roll up my sleeves and be part of it. I bring to this work a commitment and a deep passion for how public higher education can change lives and how the liberal arts can transform those lives in the process. I know the work will be challenging, but I am up for the challenge.

I confess that I am a passionate Red Sox fan and I am a deep believer in the power that athletics can play in the life of students and young people – it is leadership; it is how we learn to work in the community. I am thrilled with the exceptional community that Jim and I now get to call home. Asheville, North Carolina is a beautiful part of the state of North Carolina. It is a place where people want to be and I feel so privileged that we get to be here and we get to know that community deeply and do good work. I look forward to working with Mayor Bissette as we continue to expand the college's reach. I am very passionate about my work; I'm excited about it and if you give me an opportunity, I will tell you how liberal arts will lead us to world peace, but you probably don't have time for that today.

I want to thank and compliment the members of the Board of Governors for their wisdom to have a college of public liberal arts in the University system. It speaks volumes. And, UNC Asheville is regarded as the premiere public liberal arts university in the country and it is a great privilege to now step into the role of serving as part of a team that leads UNC Asheville.

Every college president carries a few good quotes and I want to share a quote from President John F. Kennedy (another Massachusean), 'Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.' I truly believe that is what public education does--that is what you do through your work, that is what the trustees at UNC Asheville do through their leadership, that is what the faculty do through the ways they reach and touch students, that is what the chancellors do because of the leadership they provide to these important institutions, and that is the work that I get to do as we go forward with President Ross, with the team in this room, and the wonderful team on the UNC Asheville campus.

In closing, I feel privileged so say what a special place in the model of the institution I lift my eyes to the mountains and that couldn't be truer. And one last thing, Go Bulldogs!"