

Board of Governors Meeting

May 21, 2015

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The Board of Governors met in special session on May 21, 2015, at the Spangler Center in Chapel Hill. Chairman Fennebresque called the meeting to order 1:00 p.m. He thanked the guests from UNC Pembroke for joining us today for this very important event.

INVOCATION

Chairman Fennebresque called on Mr. Parrish to give the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Perry called the roll. The following members were present:

Roger H. Aiken	W. Edwin McMahan
W. Louis Bissette, Jr.	Hari H. Nath
John C. Fennebresque	Anna S. Nelson
Hannah D. Gage	Alex J. Parker
Ann B. Goodnight	R. Doyle Parrish
H. Frank Grainger	Joan Templeton Perry
Thomas J. Harrelson	Therence O. Pickett
Henry W. Hinton	David M. Powers
James L. Holmes, Jr.	Robert S. Rippy
William (Marty) Kotis III	J. Craig Souza
G. Leroy Lail	G.A. Sywassink
Steven B. Long	Richard (Dick) Taylor
Joan G. MacNeill	Raiford G. Trask III
Mary Ann Maxwell	Phillip D. Walker

The following members were absent:

Rodney E. Hood	Harry L. Smith, Jr.
Scott K. Lampe	Laura I. Wiley (excused)
W. G. Champion Mitchell (excused)	

STATE ETHICS ACT

Chairman Fennebresque stated that under the State Ethics Act, members have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. Looking at the agenda for the meeting, Chairman Fennebresque asked if any member had a conflict of interest or an interest that would give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest. There were none.

Chairman Fennebresque entertained a motion to go into closed session. On motion by Secretary Perry and duly seconded, the Board voted to convene in closed session. The Board went into closed session at 1:05 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:15 p.m.

ELECTION OF A CHANCELLOR

Senior Vice President Gonzales stated that President Ross expresses his deep regret in having to miss today's important meeting as he is recovering from shoulder surgery. Senior Vice President Gonzales recognized Chancellor Carter who is retiring next month. He thanked him for his strong leadership that he has shown at UNC Pembroke over the past five years and for his earlier service as Provost at Western Carolina University. He will leave UNC Pembroke stronger than he found it and that is a legacy of which we and he can be very proud.

On behalf of President Ross, Senior Vice President Gonzales recommended an energetic, imaginative, and highly respected new leader for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He called on Dr. Wiley Barrett, Chair of the UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees and Chair of the Search Committee, for brief remarks about the search process.

Dr. Barrett acknowledged all the guests and those on the campus watching the live streaming of today's special announcement. Dr. Barrett commented that he has served as chairman on the Board of Trustees for two years and served as Chairman of the Search Committee. Last fall, Chancellor Carter announced his plans to retire. At that time, the Board of Trustees began to develop a search committee. A diversified, 19-member search committee was formed. The Search Committee was comprised of students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and community representatives. In November, President Ross presented the members of the Search Committee with their charge. Dr. Caroline Whitson of Academic Search, Inc. assisted with the search to help recruit and evaluate candidates. The Search Committee held five public forums to gather input from the constituent groups and a website was developed. Mr. Barrett acknowledged Ms. Kellie Blue, Secretary of UNC Pembroke Board of Trustees, for developing and managing the website. Two members from the Board of Governors – Mr. Taylor and Mr. Rippey – were involved with the search. A leadership profile statement was developed. The Committee received 76 applications for the position. The Committee narrowed the field to ten candidates. Five candidates were brought to campus and the slate was narrowed to three candidates, whose names were submitted to President Ross. In closing, Mr. Barrett thanked Ms. Lemmon, Mr. Josh Malcolm, and all the members of the Search Committee for their outstanding work throughout the process.

Dr. Gonzales recommended the election of Dr. Robin G. Cummings, M.D., as the next chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Dr. Cummings currently serves as Deputy Secretary of NC Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Gonzales provided an overview of Dr. Cummings' background, administrative and leadership experiences. In a succession of challenging jobs in medicine and state government and his volunteer service to the University, Dr. Cummings has exhibited great imagination, energy and leadership. As a Pembroke native, member of the Lumbee Tribe, and former member of UNC Pembroke's Board of Trustees, he understands and appreciates the University's rich history and he is passionate about the larger role that UNC Pembroke can play in the life of the region and the potential to change the future of so many North Carolinians. With his broad experience, his profound appreciation for the institution and his demonstrated commitment to scholarship and public service, Dr. Cummings will be a forceful and effective leader for UNC Pembroke. He is a board-certified general and cardiothoracic surgeon. He is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill where he was a James M. Johnston Scholar and founding member of the Carolina Indian Circle. He attended Duke University Medical School as a UNC Board of Governors' Medical Scholar and Henry J. Kaiser Merit Scholar, earning the Sandoz Award for Basic Science Research and the National Library of Science Award. He interned in surgery and completed residencies in surgery and cardiac surgery at Duke University Medical Center. He completed a 2-year research fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery. Dr. Cummings practiced cardiothoracic surgery at the Pinehurst Surgical Clinic and was medical director and executive director of Community Care of the Sandhills, a regional healthcare organization. In 2013, he joined the NC Department of Health and Human Services as Director of the NC Office of Rural Health and Community Care and in 2014, was named Deputy Secretary of Health Services and Acting State Health Director where he has overseen Medicaid. He has been honored with the Presidential Award from the NC Academy of Family Physicians and the Visionary Award from NC Prevent Blindness. He is married to Rebecca Godwin Cummings, a Pinehurst realtor and fellow Pembroke native. They have four children.

On behalf of President Ross, Dr. Gonzales recommended the election of Dr. Robin G. Cummings as the next chancellor of UNC Pembroke effective July 15, 2015. Mr. Taylor offered the motion to accept President Ross' recommendation and election of Dr. Cummings as the new chancellor of UNC Pembroke. Mr. Lail seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chairman Fennebresque called on Dr. Cummings for his remarks.

In accepting the position, Dr. Cummings thanked President Ross for his leadership in the nomination process. He commented that he appreciated meeting with Chairman Fennebresque and other members of the Board and he was deeply honored by the Board's support of his appointment as Chancellor for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He thanked Chairman Barrett for his remarks and thanked all those who attended today's announcement. He acknowledged Dr. Carter and thanked him for his support. He recognized his family members. For excerpts of Dr. Cummings remarks, please see Attachment A.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Secretary

**Acceptance Remarks by Chancellor-Elect for UNC Pembroke
Dr. Robin G. Cummings, M.D.
UNC Board of Governors Special Meeting
May 21, 2015**

“Thank you, Dr. Gonzales for your very kind remarks. First, I want to thank President Ross for his leadership in my nomination process. I appreciated the discussion over our mutual nontraditional paths of the world of academia. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Chairman Fennebresque and other members of the Board and to share the Chair’s impressions of Pembroke after his recent visits there. I am deeply honored by the Board’s support of my appointment as Chancellor for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. I am honored; I am humbled and if I didn’t have to give this speech, I’d be speechless.

I thank the Board of Trustee Chairman Barret, the members of the Trustees and other members of the search committee for being here today. I acknowledge the retiring Chancellor Carter. He and I had time to share some quality time together especially when I was on the Board of Trustees and subsequently as the Chair. Your presence here means a lot to me and my family and I appreciate it. To my children, their spouses and my granddaughter, Ava, and soon-to-be second granddaughter arriving next month, and most of all to my wife. No one has the opportunity that I have today except through the support and encouragement of a lot of people. Many of those people are here today and many are back in Pembroke. I am ready for and challenged by what lies ahead.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is and always has been about vision – 128 years ago just 22 years after the end of the Civil War, seven American-Indian men petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly for the right to build a school to train teachers in their community. These visionary men saw the future for their children and they realized that education was essential. Today, there are two American-Indian cardiothoracic surgeons in America and both are from the Lumbee Tribe. There are multiple attorneys, judges, and other professions associated with the need for education represented by the Tribe. These men recognized the power of education; they recognized its promise and the potential to change lives. With a land-grant and \$500 they started a school to train teachers who would teach their children and today over 20 percent of all teachers in the surrounding 13-county area to UNC Pembroke were educated at UNC Pembroke.

UNC Pembroke is nationally recognized for its diverse student body, its personalized learning and the affordability of a quality education. It is one of the safest campuses. Through the strong efforts of prior chancellors, our faculty, staff and cabinet leadership, UNC Pembroke's retention and graduation rates continue to rise, while recognizing the University's tradition of graduating first-generation, nontraditional students. Importantly, once UNC Pembroke commits and accepts a student, the University does all it can to ensure their success academically. By any measure, the 1887 vision is a success.

Over the coming days, I plan to spend time with Chancellor Carter and other University leaders, members of the faculty and staff, and students. I plan to listen a lot and learn a lot from those who love the University of North Carolina Pembroke as I do and who know it best. As we move forward our decisions will be guided by three principles – is this good for our students; is it the best opportunity for our University; and does it prepare UNC Pembroke for the future? In academics, UNC Pembroke must continue its strategic goal to be an institution of choice in southeast North Carolina and to emphasize student success. In advancement, our philanthropic efforts must be sustained, imaginative and bold. In athletics, UNC Pembroke will be more and more recognized as a regional, state and national level for its growing and successful athletic programs. Recognizing the tremendous success of UNC Pembroke's nursing program with three years of a 94 percent pass rate and the strong and increasing demand for health related jobs, I believe UNC Pembroke has a unique opportunity to emphasize studies in allied health fields such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, and optometry – areas in which jobs will be waiting upon graduating. I believe it's time for a doctoral program at UNC Pembroke and this will be a short-term goal of mine.

Two years ago Chancellor Carter started the program for Southeast American Studies. Given its history, I believe UNC Pembroke has a unique claim as a historically American Indian university which is second to no other institution across the nation. While maintaining, encouraging and remaining vigilant to our student body diversity and continuing to emphasize and expand on the College of Arts & Sciences and Schools of Business, Education and Graduate Studies, I am convinced we can uniquely expand this program and serve the higher educational needs and ambitions of American Indians in the southeast and nationally. The program for Southeast America Indian Studies will evolve to be a premiere nationally recognized school with its own dean, with endowed chairs, and American Indian scholars in the area of law, culture, literature, health, etc. UNC Pembroke is the logical school for this institution. To accomplish

this opportunity, UNC Pembroke must have an advancement organization that is focused, well-funded, based on cutting edge philanthropic theory and able to sell a vision. It will be one of my top priorities to maximize to the fullest extent private funding for UNC Pembroke. We will announce a major gifts campaign by the end of this year. For a capital campaign to be successful and sustained, new and innovative approaches to attracting philanthropic dollars must be explored. In athletics, some of you had the opportunity to support the vision of Chancellor Meadors when football returned to UNC Pembroke several years ago. The team has experienced unparalleled success in its first year and has a strong following. This was creative, imaginative and futuristic thinking on the Board's part working with Chancellor Meadors. The excitement around the success of the men's basketball team this year and the attention and attendance generated was palpable. We got many successful teams. UNC Pembroke goes far and above what the NCAA requires of collegiate athletics programs in the terms of oversight. I see successful sports programs based on the concept of the student-athlete as a component working in concert with academic excellence as enhancing UNC Pembroke's ability to attract the best and brightest. Whatever decisions are made every decision has to be about the student, about the University and for the future.

In closing, I deeply treasure the opportunity to come back home to Robertson County to the region to serve as chancellor at UNC Pembroke. I am a product of education. I believe in its transformity of power for individuals for families for our state and our nation. Education cures a lot of ills that our society presently faces. Without question, it is the great equalizer; it's the path to opportunity and to a great nation. Someone once asked me between the two universities I attended, which had the greatest influence on your life. Without too much thought, I responded that the university that influenced my life the most was the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. I remember as a child riding the public school bus as we passed Pembroke State College on the way to elementary school hearing in the community about English Jones, President of the College, and I remember just being in awe in his presence; I remember high school nights in the Mary Livermore Library on campus and growing comfortable with the whole atmosphere of a university. And, I remember when the building on campus, Old Main, caught on fire and was severely damaged. Then Governor Holshouser came to campus and proclaimed on the steps of Old Main that "this building will be restored" and I remember how the community and the university came together for a cause. To be able to return home and finish my professional career and to whatever extent possible make things a little better for a

Attachment A

university I love and admire, to a region that so desperately deserves the benefits of education, to give another child the potential and promise of education that I saw and experienced, to grow a vision 128 years in the making is an amazing, awesome and blessed opportunity. I thank you again for that privilege.”

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