

PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

June 14, 2013

President Ross expressed his sincere thanks to the retiring members of the Board of Governors. He thanked them for the opportunity to have worked with them and for their leadership. Their advice and support were invaluable. President Ross looked forward to working with the incoming members. President Ross congratulated and welcomed Mr. Robert Nunnery. President Ross noted that Robert will be an outstanding member and he was a great student leader. Acknowledging that there was still a lot of work to be done, President Ross was confident that together we would preserve and strengthen the University in order to help North Carolina compete and prosper.

This past week, President Ross along with several of our chancellors had the opportunity to meet with The Honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, to discuss Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and some of the collaborative veteran initiatives currently underway on our campuses. They visited the traumatic brain injury center at UNC-Chapel Hill's exercise and sports science department. The center's researchers believe their findings could treat traumatic brain injuries for our soldiers and military returning from war.

President Ross reported that last month, the *U.S. News & World Report* released its augural ranking for the best online programs for veterans. North Carolina State University ranked #1 in the nation for its Engineering Online Graduate Program and ranked #3 for its Online Education Graduate Program. East Carolina ranked #3 for its Online Graduate Nursing Program.

Next, President Ross commented on the status of the state budget. The Committee on Public Affairs had discussed the budget at its previous day meeting. The House passed its budget this week and it had sobering implications for the University. He stated that the impact of the deep cuts and the effect the cuts would have on our ability to continue to provide high quality education to our students and to help North Carolina's economic recovery was worrisome. He was grateful that the House budget did provide some expansion funds for the University's Strategic Plan recognizing the importance of the Plan to the future of the University. The House

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leadership also supported our enrollment growth and research efforts. President Ross noted that many of the southern states including Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina, all adopted budgets that would increase funding for higher education. The President remarked that we would continue to make our case to the legislature about the importance of investing in the future of our state and our young people through our public university.

President Ross recognized the leaders from our affiliated entities – Dr. Bill Roper, CEO UNC Health Care System, Mr. Tom Howe, General Manager of UNC Center for Public Television, and Mr. George Briggs, Executive Director of the North Carolina Arboretum. This marked the last Board meeting for three campus leaders – Chancellor Mauceri, UNC School of the Arts; Chancellor Thorp, UNC-Chapel Hill; and Chancellor Gilchist, Elizabeth City State University. President Ross recognized Chancellor Saunders-White of North Carolina Central University, who began her term on June 1. Next, President Ross recognized the six students from the UNC General Administration's Inaugural Marian Drane Graham Scholars Program – Sa'Metria Jones from UNC Charlotte, Elizabeth White from UNC Pembroke, Daniel Mull from Western Carolina University, Kenya Kirman from Winston-Salem State University, Mark Hatcher from East Carolina University, and Brittany Reeves from UNC-Chapel Hill. President Ross recognized two departing Presidential Interns from General Administration who had served the past year – Shante Elliot, a graduate from Fayetteville State University, and Zachary Smith, a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. Both interns had contributed a great amount of time and energy on an array of projects over the past year.

In other campus highlights, *Newsweek* magazine released its annual list of the Nation's Best Public High Schools. North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) ranked #23 among 2,000 schools listed. This spring, a team of five students from NCSSM competed in the National Science Bowl held in Washington, D.C. The team took second place in the competition and won \$1,000 for their science department at the school. Fayetteville State University recently launched a \$25 million Capital Campaign– the largest capital campaign in the school's history. The school would receive more than \$200,000 annually for student scholarships thanks to the newly created endowment by the estate of Robert H. Short. Mr. Short made a \$10 million bequest to the Cumberland Community Foundation to endow scholarships for local students attending colleges in Fayetteville. Bioadhesive Alliance, Inc., an

entrepreneurship research team from NCA&TSU, has developed and manufactured a bio-based adhesive used as a substitute to petroleum-based asphalt binder. The team won top honors and received a \$100,000 grand prize for their invention at the ACC Clean Energy Challenge. The team went on to compete against five other regional winners in the U.S. Energy Department's National Clean Energy Business Plan held this month in Washington, D.C. The National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators honored Chancellor Anne Ponder with its inaugural Vann Ummersen Presidential Leadership Award. The award honors a senior university or college administrator who has demonstrated leadership and promotion of women's opportunities in athletics, administration or coaching.

Last month, UNC-Chapel Hill Women's Lacrosse team won its first NCAA championship. This week, the UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University baseball teams would be competing against each other in the 2013 College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. President Ross noted that this event would be great exposure for the University and for both men's baseball teams. At UNC Charlotte, Mr. Jeff Baker, chief of police, won the 2012 Campus Safety Director of the Year award by the *Campus Safety* magazine. He developed a plan focused on community oriented policing, successfully lobbied for additional officers and pushed for more thorough investigations.

President Ross announced that the Trask Land Company, led by Mr. Raiford Trask III and member of the Board of Governors, had established a merit scholarship at UNC Wilmington to benefit active-duty U.S. Marines and member of their families. Preference for the *Trask Land Company Champions of Freedom Scholarships* will be given to marines wounded in action and to those who serve in special operations. President Ross thanked Mr. Trask for his generosity. At the UNC School of the Arts, the School of Drama was ranked seventh among the world's top 25 drama schools by *The Hollywood Reporter*. Last month, WRAL-TV raised \$100,000 for "*Oklahoma Tornado Relief*" by partnering with UNC-TV to broadcast the UNC School of Arts award-winning production of *Oklahoma* during a telethon. President Ross credited Chancellor Mauceri with having the idea for the fundraiser. President Ross thanked Chancellor Mauceri for the great work he has done for the people who suffered so severely as a result of the tornados. Western Carolina University's Pride of the Mountain Marching Band was one of only two university-level marching bands selected from across the nation to perform in the 2014 Macy's

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Thanksgiving Day parade. President Ross acknowledged Mr. John Sherer, Director of UNC Press. The Melon Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to UNC Press. The grant would expand its efforts of digital publication to grow. President Ross spoke about the 2nd Annual Chancellors' Cup Golf Tournament sponsored by the UNC Staff Assembly. The tournament was played earlier this week. There were 23 teams that participated. All 17 campuses were represented and nearly \$20,000 was raised. President Ross thanked Mr. Chuck Brink, chair of the Staff Assembly and Ms. Susan Colby, chair-elect, for all their hard work and effort to raise money for staff scholarships.

President Ross acknowledged that this marked Mr. Bart Corgnati's last meeting as Secretary of the University. Mr. Corgnati was retiring at the end of the month after 22 years of outstanding service to the University. As a tribute to Mr. Corgnati, a short video was presented that highlighted Mr. Corgnati's career and service. President Ross recognized Mrs. Donna Corgnati, Bart's wife. President Ross was proud to announce that Ms. Ann Lemmon, Associate Vice President of Human Resources at General Administration, would succeed Mr. Corgnati.

Next, President Ross spoke about concerns of violent crime incidents that occur on and around college campuses throughout the country all of which have become topics of national conversation. He stated that our campus leaders, students and staff were taking part in those conversations and they have raised awareness of the threat posed to the educational community. No campus was completely insulated from violence that is increasingly prevalent in our society. Federal data show that crime rates for our campuses ranked significantly below the statewide crime rate. The University would continue to do everything feasible to promote a safe environment for our campuses and to ensure that the rights of individuals are respected. President Ross announced that the University would establish a Campus Security Initiative. This work would include a thorough review of best practices. Policy recommendations regarding campus safety would be brought to the Board in the near future.

In closing, President Ross shared an update on an initiative that grew out of the Board of Governors visit to China last year. The Global Voices Competition asked students from across the campuses to tell an important story about three parts of our international programming efforts – sending student abroad, bringing students from foreign countries to our campuses, and making efforts to bring U.S. and international students on our campuses. The goal is to promote

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international engagement among our University's students. Two winning videos from the competition were shown that highlighted international students' social and academic experiences on a UNC campus. The winners of the Global Voices Video Competition were from NC State University and UNC Charlotte.