

APPENDIX B  
**PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**  
**January 16, 2015**

President Ross stated there was a lot of work that lie ahead as we continue to implement the University's Five-Year Strategic Directions Plan. He announced the Board would convene a special Education Summit hosted by SAS Institute on January 27. The Board and staff would be travelling to other UNC campuses. This year, the Board will hold three regular meetings on the campuses – the February meeting at UNC Charlotte, the April meeting at East Carolina University, and the September meeting at UNC School of the Arts.

Next, President Ross noted how much he appreciated the Governor attending today's meeting to speak about innovation and accelerate commercialization of discoveries through the marketplace. Our University brings in over \$1.2 billion in external research funding. The University has made important discoveries, created spin-off companies, and these innovations drive our economic future. He stated the University was eager to work with the Governor to do an even better job.

Two years ago the Board adopted *Our Time, Our Future Strategic Directions Plan, The UNC Compact with North Carolina*. The Plan set a five-year vision for the University and laid out a strategy for achieving it. Since adopting the Plan, our Chancellors, faculty, staff, students, affiliated leaders, and the UNC Health Care System, has worked with us to pursue the five goals described in the plan. He reiterated the five goals – set degree attainment goals that are responsive to state needs, strengthen academic quality, serve the people of North Carolina, maximize efficiencies, and ensure an accessible and financially stable university. There is considerable progress that has been made despite significant challenges in the resource area. The *Our Time, Our Future Interim Report* provides a more in depth overview of the University's achievements to date. Copies of the report were distributed to the Board and to the Chancellors. It is posted on the University's website. He thanked Vice President Worthington and her team for the great work in producing this publication.

Next, President Ross recognized the Chancellors and thanked them for their outstanding leadership. He welcomed Chancellor Grant from UNC Asheville and Chancellor Robinson from Winston-Salem State University, who were attending their first Board of Governors meeting. Both are off to great starts and President Ross was proud to have them on the team.

Recognizing recent campus activities and achievements, the *U.S. News & World Report* released its rankings for online bachelor and master's degree programs. Eleven UNC campuses were ranked in the Top 100 across the various categories and five were represented among the Top 25. At UNC-Chapel Hill's (UNC-CH) Kenan-Flagler Business School, its online MBA program was in a 3-way tie with first place. NC State University's (NCSU) Jenkins School of Business ranked ninth. Other online graduate categories where UNC campuses earned Top 25 designations included nursing at East Carolina University (ECU), computer information technology at NCSU, UNC Greensboro (UNCG) and North Carolina A&T State (NCA&T), engineering at NCSU and criminal justice at ECU. Appalachian State University (ASU), Fayetteville State University (FSU), UNC Pembroke (UNCP), UNC Charlotte (UNCC), UNC Wilmington (UNCW) and Western Carolina University (WCU) were recognized for having one or more graduate programs in the Top 100.

Last month, *Kiplinger's* magazine ranked UNC-CH #1 on its Best College Values, 2015 list for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Five other UNC campuses – NCSU, UNCW, ASU, UNCA, and WCU – were among the schools that *Kiplinger* concluded delivered an exceptional combination of academic quality and affordability. Nine UNC campuses – ECU, FSU, NCCU, NCSU, UNCC, UNCG, UNCP, UNCP and WCU – have been named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. NCCU, UNC-CH and UNCG were on the honor roll with distinction.

A collaborative project involving ECU, NCSU, UNC-CH and Duke University will provide key research and solutions for salt water issues affecting the ecosystem and the economy of eastern North Carolina. A \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Coastal Science Engineering and Education for Sustainability Program will enable them to focus on solutions to salt water intrusion into fresh water sources along the coast. For the eighth consecutive year, the UNC Asheville Singers performed at the White House to entertain holiday visitors and to perform for soldiers in the Wounded Warrior Project at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Governor McCrory recently named Shelby Stephenson, retired UNCP English professor and poet from Johnston County, as the state's new poet laureate. He is a member of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame and will be installed next month. At UNC School of the Arts, it has 23 film and drama alumni involved in 11 films competing, premiering or screening at this month's Sundance Film Festival. Earlier this month, UNCW's Watson College of Education

hosted its first K-12 STEM education conference. Teachers from across southeastern North Carolina learned about opportunity to incorporate STEM topics into their lesson plans.

The UNC Press, led by Mr. John Sherer, was awarded a \$998,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to support the development of the capacities at university presses from around the country for the publication of high-quality, digital monographs. Mr. Sherer is leading UNC Press and the nation in using digital technology to produce products and deliver publications both inside and outside the University.

In closing, President Ross announced that this marked the last Board meeting for Vice President Fleming, who is retiring next month. He thanked Vice President Fleming for this outstanding service to the University. President Ross thanked Senior Vice President Arden, who served six months as Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Since June, Dr. Arden served as both NC State University provost and as interim Senior Vice President, following the departure of Dr. Suzanne Ortega, who was named president of the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington. Dr. Arden has been a wonderful colleague to us at General Administration and to the entire University system. Later this month, Dr. Junius Gonzalez will join UNC General Administration as our new Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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