



President's Report to the UNC Board of Governors: January 26, 2018

Thank you, Chairman, and good morning everyone. Between government shutdowns and snow storm shutdowns, I'm glad we are back at full steam with two productive days of meetings.

UNC System Rebrand

As you saw just a few minutes ago, the UNC System, NC Promise, and our UNC Lab Schools have new logos and a united identity.

This has been a big team effort and I want to recognize our communications team for leading the project, especially Meredith Beaton Didier and Camille Barkley.

It's a new look for a new era. An era of higher expectations from our students, taxpayers, and policymakers for greater effectiveness, accountability, and efficiency.

We have long delivered transformative results for our state and its people. But we can do more to harness our institutions' individual voices and strengths to speak and work together in pursuit of our shared goals.

Together, we can rise to meet the moment. United, we can seize the opportunities ahead, while preserving the independence and identities of our 17 unique institutions.

A strong System means our institutions can focus on their core mission: empowering students, driving innovation, and enriching North Carolina's communities.

Our Strategic Plan—unanimously adopted by the Board one year ago— and our institutional performance agreements signed last fall together mark a big first step towards greater coordination and accountability.

Data Dashboards

You saw some of that work yesterday in the Strategic Initiatives Committee as Andrew Kelly and his team walked through our new online data dashboards.

Our 16 institution-specific performance agreements set a roadmap to achieve that vision. And these data dashboards hold us accountable to that roadmap.

APPENDIX A

This is about transparency and accountability. The dashboards will show, to anyone who goes to our site, when the System and its individual institutions meet their targets and goals and when they don't. No doubt as we move through the next five years of evaluation, the data will show successes, and it will show areas to strengthen.

We've laid out what our goals are and now it's up to us to achieve them but as I like to say – in God we trust, all others bring data.

Data Modernization

Which is why we will work with the Legislature to bring our data systems into the 21st century. We are a big system, built over many years and our data systems reflect that.

You can't compare apples to oranges and inconsistencies in how we collect and analyze data across the System is hindering our ability to manage and strengthen the university.

With smarter, more coordinated data systems, policymakers like you can get better answers, our campus leaders can better evaluate their efforts, and together we can deliver on the higher expectations our state has for its University System.

Ed Prep Program Review

Yesterday the Education Planning Committee heard the results of our Educator Preparation Program Review.

State policymakers have made clear that improving our public schools is a priority and we share that goal and have a responsibility to prepare excellent teachers.

The research is clear – a high-quality education depends on high-quality teachers. We must recruit and prepare more great teachers.

As the state's largest source of public school teachers, we have a responsibility to lead on this issue. Thanks to support from the Belk foundation, this look under-the-hood at our educator prep programs gives us a starting point for strengthening that work.

This is a personal priority for me. This week, I met with our 14 deans of education and with the help of a System-wide advisory group, we will begin to chart the path forward. We are all committed to embracing this opportunity.

My Future NC

And as we continue to examine our contributions to our public schools, we're also continuing to work with our partners across the educational spectrum through the My Future NC Commission.

You'll see a lot from the Commission in the next few months, including a new website, white papers, and original research from the Friday Institute, and a set of listening sessions in all eight prosperity zones across the state.

APPENDIX A

We'll be sure to let the Board know those dates when they're announced, and I encourage you to participate.

Our next Commission meeting is February 13th in Winston Salem, and I thank Executive Director Kristy Teskey for all her hard work getting us ready to go for this year-long effort.

Thanks as well to Chancellor Sherri Everts for stepping into a leadership role on the Commission in place of Chancellor David Belcher.

Policy Session – Transfer Pathways

One of the issues the Commission is addressing is our transfer pathways from community colleges to four-year institutions. Yesterday's policy session helped illuminate where we are.

Transfer pathways are a powerful tool for increasing access and decreasing achievement gaps. Overall, we're lagging behind our peers in this area. But as we saw from UNC Greensboro and ECU we have institutions that are raising the bar.

As Chancellor Gilliam so eloquently said, they are "tenaciously focused on student success" and improving transfer pathways are yielding results and improving student retention and graduation. There are big effects and big savings, when we do so. When students drop out, that's a big lost investment for us and for them.

And our institutions are showing us progress is possible. It's our responsibility to provide strong leadership from the top to accelerate and scale up that campus-level leadership.

Thanks to our presenters yesterday, to Governor Mitchell and the Strategic Initiatives Committee for their work on transfer pathways, and Junius Gonzales and Andrew Kelly and their teams.

Funding Model

We've also had good progress over the past weeks in our funding model task force. Just before Christmas, Chairman Scott Lampe circulated a draft, revised funding model for discussion by task-force members, which has generated interest and debate.

The draft model includes two options for performance funding along with a replacement of the 12-cell matrix we all know and love.

The task force, which is made up of institutional leaders, System staff, and members of the Board of Governors, meets next on February 1st here in Chapel Hill, and I know we will have a lively meeting. I look forward to discussion of the proposed draft at that meeting, and with the full Board in the spring.

WCU – Chancellor Search

Finally, I want to recognize the efforts of a few individuals and groups within the System.

Last week, snow kept me from traveling in person, but Governor David Powers and I were able to Skype in, and I delivered the charge to Western Carolina University's Chancellor Search Committee.

APPENDIX A

I am confident the Committee will find an outstanding leader to take Western into its next chapter; building on the transformative progress Chancellor Belcher drove and capitalizing on the historic opportunity NC Promise will bring.

As the search moves forward, I'm grateful for Provost Allison Morrison-Shetlar who is stepping in at the helm as WCU's Interim Chancellor. Please join me in recognizing Allison.

ECSU- Conway Retirement

And on the other side of the State, I received word from Chancellor Conway of his plans to retire at the end of May. I know you will all join me in offering Chancellor Conway our profound gratitude for his four decades of service to the University System and his dedication to ECSU and its students.

Please join me in recognizing Chancellor Thomas Conway.

Over the coming months, Chancellor Conway will work with Dr. Karrie Dixon, who currently serves as co-lead for ECSU's working group along with the Chancellor, as she assumes the role of interim Chancellor on June 1.

Thanks to Dr. Dixon, for stepping up to help maintain our progress that the ECSU working group – including Governors Davenport, Smith and Long – has helped create and seize the opportunity NC promise holds for ECSU.

Staff Changes

And finally, I want to note a few staff changes here at the System Office.

Dr. Jim Ptaszynski, whose appointment as the Vice President for Digital Learning I announced in November, has formally assumed his role. He joins us from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where he was a Senior Fellow for Postsecondary Success.

Before that, he worked for nearly 20 years at Microsoft on their higher education strategy, helping colleges and universities, as well as individual faculty members integrate technology into their teaching and learning activities.

We're glad to have Jim onboard and welcome him back to North Carolina, as he previously worked just down the road at Wake Forest early in his career as an associate dean and is a double Carolina grad with both his BA and PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill.

I'm also pleased to announce our new Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Keith Werner.

He comes to us from Ernst & Young, where he served as its public-sector leader for North and South Carolina. Previously, he served as the State's Chief Information Officer and as the first Cabinet Secretary for the NC Department of Information Technology.

I'm grateful to have both them both on our team and I know you will enjoy working with them.

APPENDIX A

My final note, as you all heard, UNC Wilmington Chancellor Sartarelli is having a bypass procedure early next week. He will be out of the office temporarily, and Provost Sheerer will handle the day-to-day operations on campus.

We wish Zito the very best and will keep you apprised of his recovery.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my report.