



**Excerpts of Report by Chair Ramsey
Board of Governors Meeting
April 17, 2020**

Thank you all, again, for your willingness to adapt to how we are meeting during this period of social distancing. I know, personally, that we all feel disconnected from the System Office and disconnected from each other, but I can assure you that we are listening to you as you have ideas and as the committees come forward, and we are continuing to try to do the work of the University, even though it changes on a daily basis. I ask that everyone exercise patience.

I am very proud of what the UNC System has done over the last few weeks. Nearly 50,000 classes have been moved online and nearly 14,000 faculty are teaching remotely. Many of them had to reimagine how they deliver coursework and how they engage students. We have done all this while lending extra support to students who need it the most. Thank you to all our institutions, which continue to house and feed those students, who have no home to return to or who need campus infrastructure to continue their studies.

My sincere thanks to every member of this Board, Interim President Roper, and the senior leadership team for help making all this happen. Your patience, resourcefulness, and flexibility has helped us get a remarkable amount of work done in a very short period of time. Our recent collaborative effort to revise the University's legislative ask was difficult but essential work. We recognize the challenges of our current environment and together we have provided a strategy for scaling back. We can't ignore the critical needs of our institutions, but we understand that this pandemic will have a long term impact on the state's economic health. Thus, we have made significant reductions in our budget request that you approved earlier. I applaud Chair Sloan and the Committee on Budget and Finance for the work they have been doing through this fluid situation, and I look forward to the committee's discussion about tuition and fees that will be upcoming before our May meeting. I will echo Mr. Sloan's sentiment that I cannot support any increases at this point.

I want to single out one of our Board members, UNC Association of Student Governments President, Adam Schmidt, who will be leaving the Board today. Governor Schmidt's work and leadership has helped us understand things from our students' perspective. Adam, you have effectively represented the interest of every student in the UNC System. You have played an important role in helping us get our work done. Thank you for your service, advice, and counsel. We look forward to seeing what's ahead for you.

Like many public institutions, we're facing significant budget and enrollment challenges ahead. This Board will continue to be deeply engaged as we navigate the UNC System's course through these unprecedented waters. The UNC System remains a vital source of forward-thinking, optimism, and [the people] of North Carolina can see this in how our institutions are responding to COVID-19. Researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health are collaborating on the development and testing of a potential COVID-19 drug that could help prevent severe lung damage as a result of the disease. East Carolina University's, Dr. John Fallon, M.D., Brody School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory, has already brought forth three rapid COVID-19 testing platforms online at



Vidant Medical Center and is exploring larger platforms. NC State, UNC Charlotte, and Western Carolina University are using 3D printers to generate a face shields healthcare workers need to stay safe.

These are not isolated stories; this sort of work is going on across the UNC System. Faculty and students are leading the charge against COVID-19. Such stories remind us how important the UNC System is to North Carolina. This is why we are committed to do the work we do; higher education, it strengthens and readies North Carolinians to face our biggest challenges. As we move forward, the UNC System will play a vital role in restarting the North Carolina economy. We will need to find a way to support agriculture, small business, large business, research entities, and other higher education entities across our state. We will need each of you to rise to the occasion to do your part and help on this monumental task.

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Chair Ramsey brought forth two motions, which are reflected in the **Chairman's Report** section of the meeting minutes. This concluded his report.