

## CHANCELLOR CAROL FOLT'S PREPARED REMARKS

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014

### Introduction

Just about one year ago, the Board of Governors gave me the greatest honor of my career by naming me chancellor of Carolina. What a year it's been. One thing I can say for sure, is that it has gone by very quickly. I am so grateful for the many people – faculty, staff, students, and alumni as well as our Board of Trustees who have reached out, worked hard and made our year successful.

There are many barometers we can use to evaluate how we're doing. At this time of year, two immediately come to mind as starting points: the students we're sending out into the world, and the ones we're welcoming to Carolina for the first time. On both fronts, we are excelling.

We just finished Commencement activities here in Chapel Hill, and it was a wonderful and inspiring time for me. I personally signed several diplomas of "Carolina Firsts" – students who are the first in their families to attend college. In total, this year we graduated more than 600 first-generation college students.

We honored 27 new ensigns and second lieutenants in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines at a special "Red, White and Carolina Blue" graduation ceremony this year. Also new this year were the military honor cords worn at graduation for veteran, active military and ROTC graduates. As a public university, we have a special responsibility in this area – and I'm proud that these honors are part of expanded resources for military-affiliated students at Carolina.

We also honored 251 members of the class of 2014 as Buckley Public Service Scholars. On average, these students each completed more than 450 hours of service during their time at Carolina. Fifteen students reported more than 1,000 hours each, and two students recorded more than 2,000.

The things our graduates are doing with their lives are wonderful to see. For example, with the selection this year of Hage, 36 students have been named Luce Scholars, the highest number of any American university. The Luce Scholars Program funds a year of living and learning in Asia for recent college graduates.

Now that commencement is complete, we can start looking at the second barometer I mentioned: the next generation of Carolina students. We received a record number – more than 31,000 – first-year applications. That makes this the *9<sup>th</sup> straight year* that we've broken our previous record, and we're on target to enroll another talented, diverse class in the fall.

These students will come from nearly every North Carolina county, most U.S. states and more than 50 countries. They are among the highest-performing members of their classes.

While we're talking about admissions, I'd like to mention that, as a result of the Carolina College Advising Corps, more than 4,000 high school seniors submitted applications to college in North Carolina and across the country for the 2014-15 school year. As you may know, the Carolina College Advising Corps provides in-depth admissions and financial aid advising to students in 55 high schools throughout North Carolina. On average, schools served by the Corps see an 8 to 12 percentage point increase in college-going rates.

Looking beyond our graduates this year and our incoming class, there are plenty of other indicators of the health of our University. In 2003, we were ranked 13<sup>th</sup> nationally in university research funding from the National Institutes of Health. That's not bad, but as of 2013, UNC-Chapel Hill has jumped to 7<sup>th</sup> nationally. Think about that – despite all of the challenges we've faced over the past few years, *only six other universities* in the United States receive more NIH research funding than we do. And many of those six are significantly larger.

So if anyone thinks that the great public universities aren't doing enough, just consider those numbers. Not only are the majority of students educated in public universities, we are driving a major part of the research in this country. Equally important, this research is having a real impact – creating breakthroughs in science and medicine that are saving lives here in North Carolina and around the world. You'll hear more about this from Bruce Cairns today.

Our Carolina faculty continue to lead. Kathleen Mullan Harris, the James E. Haar Distinguished Professor of Sociology, and Mike Ramsey, the Minnie N. Goldby Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, were elected this year to the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, respectively. These are some of the highest honors that a U.S. scientist or engineer can receive.

And when organizers of the Boston Marathon needed help providing likely finish times for the runners unable to complete last year's event, they came first to Richard Smith, a UNC statistician. Richard also helped them plan for this year's race.

This year we also marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carolina Black Caucus. The faculty members of the Caucus have played a historic role in UNC's and the nation's progress toward inclusivity and diversity, and their work remains as important today as always.

We are also responsible for several curriculum innovations that I'd like to touch on briefly. We've continued investing in our science, technology, engineering and math curriculum. As a result, today we might have the best STEM teaching program in the country. And you'll hear more from me about this in a moment.

A second great example of curriculum innovation is a new physician assistant program geared toward veteran medical sergeants. Although they are highly trained and have experience working in some of the most dangerous circumstances, when Special Forces Medical Sergeants finish their tours of duty, they're not licensed in the civilian world. This program will help connect them to civilian medical work and also addresses a critical state need: the shortage of medical care for underserved communities. The program plans to admit its first class in 2015.

From a university administration perspective, we head into the next academic year with a great leadership team that is already working well together. Since our last meeting, in fact, we have added another member to that team: Matthew Fajack, who will serve as the University's new chief financial officer and vice chancellor for finance and administration. Matt will help us continue to find operational efficiencies.

## **The New Normal**

Of course, we've also faced some difficult situations. The Department of Education's list of schools with pending Title IX investigations, which listed Carolina with 54 other universities battling the sexual assault issue, was one.

We have to be a leader in crafting the solution here, to be part of solving a major challenge that most, if not all, universities are facing. We're proud that Carolina students were some of the first to raise their voices on this issue, and I've had the privilege of participating in the national discussion as well. We will be contributing to developing a campus climate survey with other AAU institutions, and once we review and implement our Title IX Policy Task Force's recommendations – which I expect soon – I believe they'll be among the best in the nation.

Former federal prosecutor Ken Wainstein continues his investigation into our athletics and academic issues. We've asked him to ask the tough questions, because we know that an independent and thorough investigation is the only way to truly understand and address what went wrong. I look forward to reading the report and using its findings to move forward.

I think it's fair to say we have been both humbled and strengthened by the challenges we have faced. Our athletics program remains one of the strongest in the country; it is a source of great pride for students, alumni and North Carolinians. Just this Tuesday, I watched our women's tennis team compete with incredible grit and grace for the national championship in Georgia – we placed second which was first time our tennis team competed at that high level, and I expect to be there again, soon.

When I think about both our Title IX issues and our athletics issues, it's important to emphasize that facing such critical national issues is the new normal for higher ed. Higher education has always been a place where we test and debate – where students, faculty and

society push boundaries. It's always been a place where we consider the thorniest issues and work through them in a democratic and open manner.

This is what makes campuses like ours relevant, and I firmly believe there could be nothing worse than a campus where nothing of importance is being discussed. As the nation's oldest public university, we should expect that we will continue to be part of these debates and conversations – and, more importantly, we must make sure that we are integral to *the solutions* that move us all forward.

## **Gift Announcements**

Indeed, people inside *and* outside of Carolina feel connected to our University and see the value of what is happening here. They tell me they too want to see us be part of the solution to these various challenges. And they continue to entrust Carolina with significant donations and grants.

For example, more than 1,000 members of the Class of 2014 have already given to the Senior Campaign for Carolina.

I'm also pleased to announce two new gifts that will enhance our work in important areas: continuing our work as a national leader in STEM education and supporting local North Carolina communities.

First, we announced yesterday that Carolina, along with Penn State and University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was awarded nearly \$8 million in grant funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to enhance and evaluate our Chancellor's Science Scholars program.

As you may know, the Chancellor's Science Scholars program was created last year to increase the number of underrepresented, low-income and first-generation students in science, technology, engineering and math. The program offers scholarships, mentoring and other support. This new grant will allow us not only to improve and expand our own program, but will allow us to create a national model for other top universities.

Second, the Local Government Federal Credit Union has pledged \$7.1 million to our School of Government for initiatives to support North Carolina local governments.

We're tremendously grateful for this pledge, which builds on the past generosity of LGFCU. A core part of our mission is to help our state build stronger communities to serve North Carolina citizens, and these funds will greatly advance that commitment.

Specifically, the pledge over 10 years will provide: \$2.84 million to the School's Development Finance Initiative to expand opportunities for economically distressed communities in North Carolina by increasing their access to and use of cutting-edge

development finance instruments; \$2.22 million to the School's LGFCU Fellows program, which provides mid-level public executives with the skills needed to build the pool of local government talent prepared for leadership succession; and \$2.04 million in undesignated funds, which the School will use to create an Innovation Fund to support new and existing projects that maximize the School's impact and support its mission of improving the lives of North Carolinians.

In 2011, the LGFCU committed \$1.625 million to the School to support similar efforts, including \$1 million to the Development Finance Initiative. Thanks to that support, the Initiative was able to partner with local governments to attract private investment for transformative projects in nearly 40 communities across North Carolina. These projects range from analysis of a historic downtown building to an assessment of district-wide financial tools to attract private investment to distressed neighborhoods.

I'm confident that this latest commitment will have an even bigger impact on our state. I want to say a special thanks to Maurice Smith, LGFCU president and CEO, and the LGFCU board for making it happen. And I'm pleased Mike Smith, dean of the School of Government, is here to present to us in just a few minutes.

## **Closing**

Let me end by saying this. When I look back over the past year, my greatest pleasure has been meeting with and learning about our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Their joy and pride in our school is palpable.

I've valued the opportunity to learn from them about Carolina, what makes Carolina unique, and about our legacy and future. Most of all, I've learned about what "binds us to this place," as Charles Kuralt so memorably put it.

After a year in Chapel Hill, I now feel forever bound to this place. I am more grateful than ever to have the opportunity to lead this remarkable institution forward, and I feel confident that we are indeed charting the right path for a great 21<sup>st</sup> century public university. Thank you.

With that, it's now my pleasure to introduce our presenters.

## **North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center - Bruce Cairns, Director of the Jaycee Burn Center**

Dr. Bruce Cairns is the John Stackhouse Distinguished Professor of Surgery and director of the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center, with a joint appointment in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Bruce completed his surgical training at UNC – where he was the first National Institutes of Health trauma research fellow – and has been on the faculty since 2000.

He has received the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award for service to the state, nation and University.

He was recently elected as our new Faculty Chair and will assume those duties in July.

Today, he's here to talk about the Burn Center, which he joined in 2000 and serves as medical director. The center is one of the many impressive examples of innovative and compassionate patient care within our UNC Health Care System. Its doctors, nurses and staff provide life-saving treatment and service to burn victims and their families across North Carolina and beyond.

**Refugee Mental Health & Wellness Initiative – Jack Richman, Dean, UNC School of Social Work, Josh Hinson, Clinical Instructor, UNC School of Social Work and Students**

Jack Richman is professor and dean of the School of Social Work, which has a distinctive tradition of excellence in graduate social work education dating back to 1920.

Under his leadership, the school is ranked in the top 5 graduate programs nationally by U.S. News & World Report.

Jack has served since 2001 as dean, and joined the school more than 30 years ago as assistant dean and director of studies.

He is co-author of several books, and was named in the British Journal of Social Work's list of the 100 Most Highly Cited Articles in social work journals of the last decade.

He is also a frequent lecturer at international venues as a visiting scholar in China, India, Israel, Lithuania, and Britain.

Today, Jack is with us to discuss the Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Initiative, a collaborative project the School launched last year with a Durham nonprofit and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

**UNC School of Government Overview & Development Finance Initiative – Mike Smith, Dean, UNC School of Government and Marcia Machado Perritt, Projects Manager, Development Finance Initiative**

Dean Mike Smith will provide an overview of the School of Government, which provides critical educational opportunities and services to North Carolina's elected and appointed officials.

Mike is the latest in a long line of distinguished academics leading this nationally recognized area of our University that can be traced to the legendary Law Professor Albert Coates.

He became dean when the School of Government was created from the Institute of Government in 2001. He also directed the institute for nine years. A UNC law school graduate, he has been on the faculty since 1978.

Mike is joined by Marcia Machado Perritt, projects manager, to highlight the Development Finance Initiative, which helps local governments in North Carolina secure private investment for development projects in distressed areas.

Marcia has worked with the initiative since 2012. She is a dual Carolina alumna, with master's degrees in city and regional planning as well as public health.