

## **CHAIR DWIGHT STONE'S PREPARED REMARKS**

UNC Board of Trustees Meeting

October 1, 2015

### **Welcome**

- Thank you to the Board members and audience for attending today's meeting.
- Today we have a busy agenda with two important presentations later on biomedical engineering and innovation and entrepreneurship.
- I appreciate the kind messages of support that have come in since taking on this role as chair at our July meeting. It's a vote of confidence in the entire board and the work we'll be doing together in the coming months to advance the University.

### **Board Goals 2015/16**

- Thanks to the committee chairs and members for digging into their new assignments so energetically yesterday during a full schedule of meetings.
- A reminder of our Board goals:
  1. Support Chancellor Folt and her senior leaders as they formulate and implement a new strategic plan;
  2. Tell our story: Carolina improves the lives of people across North Carolina, our nation, and our world;
  3. Accelerate, measure and communicate the growth and economic impact of our innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives; and
  4. Help Carolina become more efficient in key operational areas, particularly finance, administration, teaching and research.

### **Successful Start to the Academic Year**

- It has been a privilege to be on campus frequently in recent weeks and seeing first-hand the excitement and energy our students, faculty and staff bring to the beginning of the new academic year.
- I was honored to represent our board a couple of weeks ago for the second consecutive year at the kick-off event for C-STEP (Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program), which helps low-to moderate-income students who transfer from a partner community college.
- Over 200 people attended, and I was impressed to see such strong support from our community college partners as well as the faculty, staff and students already in the program and many returning graduates.
- Three student speakers did a phenomenal job: Lauren Key, Jack Kent Cooke winner from Sandhills Community College; Nicole Gehmann, a nursing student from Fayetteville Technical Community College; and Carlos Cordero, a Purple Heart recipient and current senior in peace, war, and defense from Fayetteville Technical Community College.
- I would like to praise the leadership of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Admissions Steve Farmer and C-STEP Director Rebecca Egbert for a program now in its ninth year.
- I was also able to attend a luncheon for the Carolina Advising Corp led by Steve Farmer and Yolanda Keith. This program helps low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students find their way to college. There are now 45 advisors in the program across North Carolina, and they do a remarkable job with our high school graduates.
- Last Friday, I attended an Endowed Scholarship Dinner hosted by the Educational Foundation, for our student athletes. One of the keynote speakers was Vanessa Wittman, former tennis

player and currently the CFO of Dropbox, Inc. She gave a quote during her speech that I feel is a good one to share, “Get comfortable with being uncomfortable”. I don’t know of another University in the history of mankind who is more comfortable with being uncomfortable.

### **U.S News & World Report Rankings**

- I want to highlight some of Carolina’s most recent rankings in the recently released U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Colleges”.
- Carolina is #5 among national public universities for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- Tied for 30<sup>th</sup> overall with both privates and publics.
- 1<sup>st</sup> among publics in the “Great Schools, Great Prices” category (academic quality and net cost of attendance) for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- The methodology is based on quantitative and qualitative measures that are heavily based on financial resources that generally favor the private institutions.
- While rankings have their limitations, this is one that universities, high school students and parents across the country pay attention to. It’s reassuring to know we’re keeping good company with the best peer public and private campuses.
- Carolina’s ongoing success in maintaining its top 5 public status is an important indication of sustained quality. It’s just one recent example of highly positive national recognition the University is receiving under the leadership of Chancellor Folt.

### **Board Advocacy in Raleigh**

- Thank you to the trustees for their hard work in the recent weeks and months in helping articulate the University’s needs and value to North Carolinians during the budget deliberations that recently came to a closure.
- I want to emphasize that these efforts came in coordination with Chancellor Folt, her leadership team, and the Board of Governors.
- Our commitment to serving the people of North Carolina and to clearly communicate the value the University delivers to communities across the state every day.

### **Chancellor Folt**

- One clear reason why the efforts our board members have been making to communicate with our legislators have resonated is because of the excellent work Chancellor Folt and her team and doing to advance the University.

### **Media Session**

- Finally, for the news media covering our meeting, Chancellor Folt and I will be available after the open session ends at about 10:00am to take your questions. We appreciate your interest in the board and the University.