

## **CHAIR HAYWOOD COCHRANE'S PREPARED REMARKS**

### **UNC Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

#### **Welcome**

For those who were not there yesterday in our committee meetings we regret to inform you of the sudden and unexpected passing of Judge Doug Parsons. Judge Parsons was a BOV member from Clinton, and friend of UNC as well as Trustee McCullen.

- I want to thank and compliment the chairs of all five of our committees for their hard work in making our realigned meeting schedule and structure an efficient success during yesterday's sessions and the sessions last July.
- I'm pleased with how those modest changes are working, and want to encourage all of you to continue sharing candid feedback about how to make our time together as productive as possible.
- I also want to thank the trustees for the effort you regularly put in between our meeting dates to support board goals with our alumni, friends and constituents on a variety of topics. That's a very important part of our role in serving on this board, and you all do it with passion, diligence, and grace.
- We have a busy agenda today that includes two important presentations from the Center for Banking and Finance in the School of Law and the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory.

#### **Recognize Jim Dean**

- Before I go any further with my report, I ask that everyone stand with me as we recognize Jim Dean for his more than four years of outstanding service to our University as executive vice chancellor and provost.

*[Stand and lead applause.]*

- I now call on Secretary Keyes to read a resolution of appreciation.

*[After resolution ....]*

- Thank you, Bill.
- Thank you, Jim!

We also welcome Bob Blouin and look forward to working with him.

## **Restatement of Goals**

- As a reminder, our board's goals as a working board this year is focused on four primary goals. They are:

## **Goals**

- **Continue to support our world-class Chancellor, Carol Folt, and her team as they guide our great public, research-driven institution to even greater accomplishments and impact.**

Also part of Goal #1: **Support the implementation of the University's strategic framework, "The Blueprint for Next," and its alignment with the UNC System's strategic plan, "Higher Expectations."**

2. **Continue to innovate, translate and support economic development, consistent with our mission to improve the lives of all citizens of our great state, nation and the world.**
3. **Embrace and support our University's capital campaign and participate with its great organization as we approach the public launch next month week.**
4. **Support institutional efficiency and cost reductions through shared services and other operational initiatives critical to our sustainability and future.**

## **Recent National Rankings**

- Now for a national rankings recent recap
- Just-this week, The Wall Street Journal & Times Higher Education published their second annual top 100 rankings of U.S. colleges and universities.
- Carolina ranked 3rd among all public universities, following UCLA and Michigan, and 33<sup>rd</sup> overall.
- Only 21 public universities made the top 100, and only 8 reached the top 50 in a ranking that focuses on student success and learning.
- This is great company for Carolina to keep! And they are in great company with us!
- Last month's U.S. News & World Report's annual "Best Colleges" rankings yielded similar impressive results.
- #5 among national public universities for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row along with Berkeley, UCLA, UVA, & Michigan.
- 30<sup>th</sup> overall (tied).

- 1<sup>st</sup> among publics in the “Great Schools, Great Prices” category (academic quality & net cost of attendance for students receiving average need-based financial aid) for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Carolina’s continued success in maintaining our top 5 public status is one measure of academic quality and reputation that is a notable achievement.
- Congratulations to the administration and the faculty for making these most recent examples of national recognition possible for our University.

### **UNC Health Care/Carolinas Health Care System**

- I also want to express strong support for the potentially transformative combination of the UNC Health Care and the Carolinas Health Care systems to form one of the country’s largest non-profit health-care systems.
- This accord could do so much to provide critical medical care to the citizens of our state, and I know Chancellor Folt will have more to say about this in her report.

### **Campus History**

- Finally, now that we are a few weeks into the fall semester, I want to talk briefly about some of the topics that have been the focus of so much debate both on and off campus.
- We understand that our University’s 200-plus years of history is deeply personal to so many people in our campus community and across the state.
- We recognize the passions and emotions that people bring to these topics, and we deeply respect those opinions and the great traditions on this campus of peaceful protest and respectful debate.
- More than two years ago, this board directed Chancellor Folt and the administration to take a comprehensive approach to telling the full and accurate story of our University’s history.
- The objective is to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to learn about Carolina’s history, values, and contributions to society.
- Chancellor Folt responded by appointing a task force on history that did a beautiful job last year with the Carolina Hall exhibit and website, and the University Affairs Committee was updated yesterday on its current work focused on curation and education in McCorkle Place.
- That is important context that is often missing from the current discussion about the Confederate Monument.

- We fully support Chancellor Folt and her handling of the situation over the past several weeks with the Confederate Monument.
- The University must operate within the law as a state agency, and within the current governance structure as a constituent UNC system campus. We will continue to do so!
- Chancellor Folt and her leadership team have made extraordinary efforts to listen to our students and their concerns about this issue.
- Our chancellor is so skilled at both listening and connecting with people; this is a gift she has for which she doesn't always get the credit she deserves.
- She's consistently done an incredible job of listening and taking the pulse of this campus during her entire tenure in Chapel Hill in a challenging time in higher education and on our campus.

Your Chancellor has shared with us her deep concerns about the safety and welfare of our campus community – and we have listened and clearly heard her message! At the Chancellor's suggestion, the Board will provide an opportunity for campus and public input at our November BOT meeting. We are continuing the process that the Board of Trustees previously put in to contextualize the history on our campus.

We will continue to update the campus community and the public about our ongoing efforts as we sustain these very important conversations.

- It's a difficult balancing act, but just as our past leaders have, I know our chancellor will continue to lead decisively and thoughtfully and we certainly support that approach.

### **First Amendment Protections**

- As one example of that leadership, I point out Chancellor Folt's decision to decline the request of Richard Spencer and the National Policy Institute to rent space for a speaking event due to very serious concerns about the safety risks that would bring to campus.
- We all understand the University's responsibilities to uphold the First Amendment, and are proud of the history on this campus of welcoming speakers with a wide range of diverse viewpoints.

- But safety and protecting the campus community comes first, and the administration is right to carefully evaluate these requests to rent spaces based on serious safety risks.
- We understand campuses nationwide are grappling with these issues, and we're proud of the thoughtful and principled approach Chancellor Folt has taken in addressing them here.

### **Media Availability Session**

- For the news media here today, Chancellor Folt and I will be available after the open session ends at roughly 10:30 a.m. in this same room, Alumni Hall #3, to take your questions.
- Our media relations staff will help you with those logistics.
- Thank you again for being here and thanks for your interest in the board and the University.