

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ANDREW POWELL'S PREPARED REMARKS

UNC Board of Trustees Meeting

March 26, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for this humbling resolution. It has been such an honor to serve with this group. I have so much appreciation, and I have learned so much through the year. Since this is my last Board meeting I would like to give some reflections instead of the customary update on student issues.

I was struck as I was leaving the University Affairs Committee meeting yesterday, after hearing some truly remarkable presentations from students, faculty, staff and alums of our institution, a student reporter asked me if I felt like what we came up with as a solution would serve as a model for other institutions across the country. I hadn't been thinking about it that way necessarily. I was struck because in my first comments to the Board I said how UNC has always led. Since the first day we opened our doors we have provided the state and nation with an example of an affordable and accessible university that tries to address the biggest problems facing society. I have typically thought of that leadership in terms of programs and policy, rankings, or distinguished alums that this institution produces, but yesterday I was struck that this year has shown me that leadership is really about the character of the institution. And about the integrity of the leadership that exists there. What makes me so confident about the future of Carolina going forward no matter what issues we deal with, I think it was readily apparent yesterday in the engagement of this community around issues that are so important to all of us. These are tough and complex and there's not an easy solution, but this Board has reckoned with so many issues this last year with transparency and with integrity. That character is the model that I think Carolina provides to other institutions and makes me so proud to have served this year, and makes me optimistic for the future ahead. So thank you all for the leadership you show through your character every single day.