

CHANCELLOR CAROL FOLT'S PREPARED REMARKS

UNC Board of Trustees Meeting

March 26, 2015

Opening/Saunders Hall

- First, let me say thank you to Chair Caudill for your kind remarks and support. This Board is committed to Carolina and I know we will continue to accomplish a great deal.
- I also want to say thank you to all of the students, faculty and many others from the Carolina community who participated in yesterday's discussion about the naming of buildings on our campus.
- Thanks also to the Board of Trustees, particularly Trustees Gardner and Duckett, who have spent countless hours with our student groups, faculty, historians, alumni and others – including long hours in Wilson Library – learning more about Carolina's past.
- You have been very thoughtful in how you have engaged with the campus community on this issue, and everyone should know how very seriously you have treated this from the beginning.
- This conversation began long before yesterday's University Affairs meeting, but this time we intend to see it through.
- I have met with many of our students and other community members over the past two years – including nearly every campus organization – and these conversations have yielded important insights and policy changes.
- These discussions will continue as part of a new initiative I have asked Vice Chancellor Crisp to lead, Carolina Conversations. Carolina Conversations is an effort to lower the barriers that can prevent us from having meaningful, productive discussions about important issues like race and sexual assault.
- There has been a lot written in the media over the past week about how our nation's universities are the best place to incubate new ideas and bring different perspectives together, and I couldn't agree more.
- This will continue to be a top priority for me in the years to come.

Progress on Priorities

- Launching Carolina Conversations is one important initiative among many that I have tackled with my leadership team and our campus since arriving in 2013.
- It's hard to believe, but I am now coming to the end of my second full year at Carolina.
- And when I first arrived here, I identified several key areas where I wanted to place particular focus. I would like to spend my time today providing updates on each.

1. First, I pledged that we would continue to develop new ways of doing business, building on the success of programs like Carolina Counts.
 - I started by making significant changes to the leadership team, recruiting the right people to meet our current needs, and rethinking how we approach core functions like workforce management, development and communications...
 - For example, we now have new vice chancellors of Finance, IT, HR, Development, Communications and Public Affairs, and an entirely new vice chancellor position: vice chancellor of Commercialization and Innovation.
 - In terms of University operations, I have dedicated more resources to our basic infrastructure needs – for example, we have used \$180 million in F&A funding to improve buildings and infrastructure needed for research and innovation on our campus...
 - We also have worked very hard to be more transparent and work faster in fulfilling public records requests. Since the creation of our public records office in 2009, we have seen a 66% growth in requests. Last October, we became one of the few universities among our peers to launch a public records site that shows every request that is made and where it stands for processing.

2. When I first arrived here, I also said that we would make choices about the things that we do, taking risks and trying some new things, because we can't afford to stand still.
 - I'm very proud of some of those "new things" that we've tried.
 - For example, under the leadership of BoT Member Sallie Shuping-Russell, we launched the Carolina Research Venture Fund...
 - And just recently, I created a new full time position, the Student Veteran Assistance Coordinator, to provide day-to-day support for our more than 700 military-affiliated undergrad and graduate students...

3. Third, I promised to lower barriers and de-silo Carolina's campus – and we have made good progress.
 - From an academic perspective, we have created a joint biomedical engineering degree with NC State that is one of the best examples in the nation of de-siloing...
 - We also initiated a pan-university effort on poverty, promoting greater collaboration across academic disciplines...

- On that final topic, it's important that I emphasize that we now have an updated policy on sexual assault, the result of tremendous cross-campus collaboration and input. I can think of no other peer university that undertook such a significant policy change in such a bold fashion.
 - I have been invited to speak at a number of panels across the country and feel that Carolina is ahead of many of our peers in this area. We'll continue to work to build a safer, more informed and educated campus.
 - All of this work, while very different in focus, relates to a core theme: how we work together to solve important issues facing our community. My team and I have worked very hard to ensure we are addressing these topics in a way that is open, fair and inclusive of all perspectives.
4. Fourth, I also pledged to intensify our entrepreneurial activities. My goal is to build an even stronger foundation for our future as a world-class public research university – and to help stimulate North Carolina's economy as well.
- Universities have always been places where new ideas are generated and great ideas are produced.
 - But they haven't always been good at translating those ideas into tangible outcomes for society and economy. That's where I want Carolina to lead, and I'm proud of where we are today.
 - We've created a brand new leadership position, Vice Chancellor for Commercialization and Economic Development...
 - We received the largest gift from an individual in our history, from Dr. Fred Eshelman, to create the Eshelman Institute for Innovation at the School of Pharmacy...
 - We also recently learned that Carolina has cracked the top ten in overall *and* federal research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.
 - We are now ninth nationally among private and public research institutions in overall R&D expenditures and eighth nationally in federal R&D spending...
 - This is the first time that UNC-Chapel Hill has cracked the top 10 for both categories, outstripping other leading research institutions such as UCLA, MIT and Yale in both federal and overall research spending...
 - Our total annual research expenditures are now close to \$1 billion...

5. Finally, I promised that we would become better listeners, gathering input from people here and around the state to strengthen our relationships and build a shared future.
 - We're starting to see the results of this re-engagement. The governor's most recent budget contains recommendations that will help accelerate commercialization of Carolina research – and which were the result of our ongoing partnership with state officials...
 - We also have made a concerted effort to reach out to our neighbors, because we know Carolina is only as strong as the community around it.
 - Before I even started here, Trustee Shuping-Russell took me through the Northside neighborhood and I learned how important this community was to Carolina and Chapel Hill. That's why I made it a priority to designate a \$3 million, 10-year, no-interest loan to help stabilize the Northside neighborhood...
 - There are many reasons why making this investment is important. But I want to take a few minutes and share with you perspectives from those most impacted by this decision: local elementary students who were asked to share their dreams for Northside. It's powerful and helps you understand the difference we can make. *[show video]*

Closing

- We have much important work ahead of us, but I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the past two years.
- Thank you to the Board for your support.
- I'm looking forward to what the next two years bring.

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