# CHAIR DWIGHT STONE'S PREPARED REMARKS UNC Board of Trustees Meeting November 19, 2015

#### Welcome

- Thank everyone for attending.
- We have another ambitious agenda today and two important presentations from distinguished researchers on sport-related traumatic brain injury research and one of our great friends from the General Assembly about the upcoming statewide bond referendum.
- I'm deeply grateful for everything members of this board have been doing for our great University since we last met. It's been a very active several weeks for the campus at a very important time for Carolina, higher education in North Carolina, and our state.

### **Davie Awards Dinner**

- Last evening we had a wonderful dinner to honor this year's recipients of the William Richardson Davie Award.
- It's the highest honor this board can bestow for extraordinary service to our University or to society, and we were pleased to recognize three outstanding alumni and friends who have made a profound impact on the vitality of our University.
- The honorees were:
- Lucius E. Burch III, of Nashville, chairman and CEO of Burch Investment Group, and the namesake of innovative fellowship and field research programs that benefit our students;
- Betty Ray McCain, of Wilson, a pioneer for women in North Carolina politics, serving in roles including secretary of the state's Department of Cultural Resources, and;
- Roy H. Park, Jr., of Ithaca, New York, president and chairman of Park Outdoor Advertising, and whose family has generously supported our graduate media and journalism students.
- Thanks to everyone who helped make last night a great event for the Board of Trustees and the University.
- I especially want to acknowledge Trustees Duckett, Hopkins and Curtis for their help in presenting the awards.

### **Recognition for Jennifer Willis**

- On behalf of the board, I would also like to say a heart-felt thank you to a valued colleague:
   Jennifer Willis, our director of public affairs, for so ably coordinating our campus efforts in
   Raleigh with the General Assembly, state government, and our friends at the General
   Administration and on the Board of Governors.
- Jennifer has served in this liaison role for the past several years and has done a wonderful job of fostering strong personal relationships, regardless of election results.
- Now, she has just been selected as the new assistant dean for development at the School of Government. In her new role, Jennifer will serve as a member of the Dean Mike Smith's leadership team, providing strategy for and oversight of the Development Office, and will be a key figure in future fundraising.
- Jennifer's highly respected credentials in both state and local governments and the state's higher education community positions her to successfully broaden support for the school.
- She will transition full time to the new job next month, but has agreed to continue to lead the University's bond planning and implementation efforts through the March election and to assist with legislative efforts until we can identify a successor.

• We'll have a lot more to say about the bonds later in today's agenda, but for now please join me in expressing our gratitude for Jennifer's work with a round of applause.

### **Restatement of Goals**

- Thank committee chairs and members for their work yesterday.
- As a reminder for our audience, our board's work this year is focused on four main goals:
- They are:
  - 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 region, our nation, and our world.
  - 3. Accelerate, measure and communicate the growth and economic impact of our innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives.
  - 4. Help Carolina become more efficient in key operational areas, particularly finance, administration, teaching and research.

## Praise for BOG, Pledge to Work With President-elect Spellings

- Our trustees were honored to join Chancellor Folt in hosting a reception last month for Board of Governors members, General Administration senior staff, UNC campus chancellors and their chiefs of staffs.
- This event occurred in conjunction with the October Board of Governors meeting in Chapel Hill, and it provided us with an important opportunity to thank Lou Bissette, our board liaison Ann Maxwell, and their colleagues for all of their hard work in Raleigh with the budget and the president search.
- As a board, we're grateful for all of their efforts on behalf of UNC-Chapel Hill and our sister UNC
  campuses throughout the year, but in particular their hard work on behalf of the system during
  the long session.
- I know they individually spent a lot of their personal time over in Raleigh and we want to thank them for that.
- We've communicated our commitment to working closely with the Board of Governors and President-elect Spellings during this very important transition period for the greater University and all of its governing boards.
- We believe our goals are the same: to make sure our entire University and each of the campuses have the means by which to become the very best they can be to serve all North Carolinians
- Our partnerships with the Board of Governors, President-elect Spellings and our colleagues across the UNC system are more important than ever with the upcoming bond referendum coming up for a vote next March.
- Speaking of the bond referendum, I want to express my gratitude to Representative Dean Arp, deputy majority whip in the North Carolina House of Representatives, for joining us today to make a presentation.
- Representative Arp was a primary sponsor of this important piece of legislation to provide critical infrastructure for state government, our University system and the community colleges.
- I am told he gave an outstanding presentation to the Board of Governors about the need for this investment, and I know we all look forward to his presentation later in this morning's agenda.
- Thank you, Dean, for being here.

## **Praise Chancellor Folt's Leadership**

- A lot has happened at our University, and around our state and nation, since we last met, and I continued to be so impressed with the phenomenal job Chancellor Folt is doing for Carolina.
- I am personally constantly inspired whenever I have the opportunity to work directly with the chancellor, and that has been often over the past two-and-a-half years.
- In watching events unfold on campuses across the nation over the past several weeks, I am very reassured to know we have a steady hand leading Carolina.
- Thank you, Carol, for all you do for Carolina. Your passion for this place and everyone in our community is very evident.

## **Media Session**

For the news media her today, Chancellor Folt and I will be available in the Hill Ballroom Central
after the open session ends at about 10 a.m. to take your questions. Thanks for your interest in
the board and the University.

## **RECOGNITION OF DR. SANCAR (Chair Stone & Chancellor Together)**

### **Chair Stone:**

- Shortly after our last Board of Trustees meeting, we were delighted to wake up to the news that Carolina had its second Nobel Laureate (with Dr. Oliver Smithies).
- We are so pleased to have Dr. Aziz Sancar [pronounced SAHN-JAR], with us today.
- Dr. SAHN-JAR would you please stand? [BOTH LEAD APPLAUSE]
- Next month, Dr. SAHN-JAR will receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in a ceremony in Stockholm that recognizes his accomplishments as a distinguished biochemist who has exquisitely mapped part of the DNA repair system in cancer cells.
- He joined our faculty in 1982 and is the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics.
- Chancellor Folt will have more to say about the significance of Dr. SAHN-JAR's work.
- But I want to express, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, our profound appreciation for your dedication to the science and advancing knowledge that will help improve lives.
- Thank you for what you are doing for Carolina!

## **Segue to Chancellor Folt**

- Announcement event here with Duke
- Football game recognition with Dr. Modrich (MAH-DRICH)
- Parking space story
- Wrap up