

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

UNC Board of Trustees Meeting

July 23, 2015

Welcome to the board Trustees Summers, McMahan, Keyes, Grumbles, Nath, and McCullen. We look forward to working with you on the University's business.

I would also like to welcome Ann Maxwell with the UNC Board of Governors. Ann is the BOG liaison for UNC Chapel Hill. We could not be more delighted to have you as our Liaison.

I am humbled and honored to be sitting in this seat, presiding over a Board of Trustees, all of whom are dedicated to moving this University forward. We have remarkable students, the best faculty, an outstanding staff, and great leadership from our Administration. The kind of ingredients that are the envy of any Institution of Higher Learning in the world. I first want to thank Lowry Caudill. He has been a great Chair for two years. A perfect choice at the right time to lead our University through some testing times. He has done that with skill and dignity. Lincoln once said, " The best leaders never stop learning. They possess a special capacity to be taught by those they come in contact with. In essence this ongoing accumulation of knowledge helps to prepare the organization for change".

Lowry did this every day in leading our past Board. Many thanks to you Lowry for all your help and knowledge in leading this University.

Our Board starts its mission with four main goals.

1. Support Chancellor Folt and her senior leaders, as they formulate and implement a new strategic plan for UNC
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
4. Help Carolina become more efficient and effective in key operational areas particularly Finance, Administration, Teaching and Research.

Make no mistake about it, this will be a working Board. We are all about relationships. Building them, fostering and nurturing them, and working to make them grow. We will be implementing that work with whom all this Board comes in contact, including our most important constituency, the Citizens of the State of North Carolina. We will continue to work with all within our University to make us better, more efficient, and more productive. We will continue to work with the BOG and the Legislature and to realize that they are key constituency groups with whom we need clear communication about our mission. We have made much progress there and will continue to work in those areas. We will listen to all that come before us with an unbiased attitude of doing what is right.

In today's environment, the challenges facing Universities and academic institutions across the country, are huge and they are mounting. We must face those challenges head on and have the courage to change. One of Darwin's sayings was, and I am going to take the liberty to adapt it to the University, " it is not the strongest University that survives and thrives, it is also not the

most intelligent University that survives. It is the University that is the most adaptable to change that will survive and thrive. We will make sure, as a Board, that we are adaptable to change when those situations arise.

In closing, I want to challenge this board to deal with all of our issues with strong conviction and integrity. In one of my favorite quotes, Thomas Paine said, " I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. It is the business of little minds to shrink: but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves conduct, will pursue his principles unto death". My hope is all the Trustees will share those principles and convictions. This is a special place. We cannot ever forget that.