February 16, 2015

DELIVERY VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Board of Governors c/o Chairman John Fennebresque
The University of North Carolina
910 Raleigh Road
P.O. Box 2688
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
fennebresque@mcquirewoods.com

Dear Chairman Fennebresque:

Please see the enclosed UNC Asheville Sense of Senate resolution which endorses the language of the Faculty Assembly Resolution Regarding the Transition in Leadership and Direction of the UNC System. At UNC Asheville, we value open discourse. While the issues at stake are complex and not entirely transparent to us, one fundamental principle is clear: changes in public policy regarding higher education in North Carolina are likely to most effectively serve the people if they are discussed openly and arrived at publicly. While personnel decisions may be legitimately withheld from the public, our founding fathers embedded in the fundamental practices of this nation the core value that changes in public policy are best arrived at through deliberative, public processes. Indeed, this is a pillar of constitutional governance that has served our nation and state well in the past.

For public institutions to best serve the people of North Carolina and respond effectively to the challenges of the future, we need accountability and transparency from our leadership. We support endeavors that will lead to increased transparency and participation in dialogue regarding governance decisions that affect higher education in this great state. Thank you for the important work you do.

Respectfully submitted,

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee of UNC Asheville

Dolores Eggers, Chair
Laura Bond
Melodie Galloway
Samuel Kaplan

Enclosure

Cc: President Tom Ross (tomross@northcarolina.edu)
    UNC Asheville Board of Trustees (bot@unca.edu)
    UNC Faculty Assembly, c/o Stephen Leonard (sleonard@email.unc.edu)
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Sense of Senate Resolution Number 0115S
Date of Senate Approval 02/05/2015
February 5, 2015

Signature of Senate Chair [Signature] Date [Date]

Action of Provost:
Approval [Signature] Date 2-6-15

Denied ______________________ Date ______________________

Reasons for denial and suggested modifications:

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

Sense of the Senate of UNC Asheville in Support of

Resolution Regarding the Transition in Leadership and Direction
of the UNC System
Approved by the UNC Faculty Assembly on January 24, 2015

Whereas:
Chairman John Fennebresque of the UNC System Board of Governors (BOG) in his press conference on 16th of January, 2015 suggested the need for a "transition in leadership" of the UNC system to move the University in new directions; and

Whereas:
The stated need for transition required the precipitous decision to replace Tom Ross as President of the University of North Carolina System; and
Whereas:
The UNC Faculty Assembly has observed President Tom Ross to exhibit exemplary, visionary and inclusive leadership of the UNC System; and,

Whereas:
President Tom Ross continues to lead the UNC System in the best interests of the University and all the people of the State of North Carolina, in a manner that:
- Ensures access to the University system to all qualified students; and
- Provides higher education to North Carolina's citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, in a manner that is "as free as practicable," by developing and protecting financial aid and tuition structures; and
- Attracts and retains the best faculty and staff for all UNC campuses; and
- Builds a strong leadership team at the UNC General Administration that works effectively with the BOG to develop and support the capacity of individual campuses to fulfill their missions in the context of the system; and
- Effectively manages the system's complex budget during a period of drastically decreasing budgets; and
- Strengthens campus leadership by selecting Chancellors committed to academic excellence and the respective missions of the system's diverse campuses; and
- Promotes a comprehensive liberal arts based education that prepares students for careers and lifelong learning; and

Whereas:
The UNC Faculty Assembly is deeply concerned that the precipitous decision to replace an acknowledged highly effective system leader will diminish the opportunities to attract and retain strong, effective and visionary leaders at all levels of the University system;

Therefore Be It Resolved:
That the Faculty Assembly of the University of North Carolina expresses its most sincere thanks and highest respect for the exemplary work and leadership of President Tom Ross; and,

Be It Further Resolved:
That the UNC Faculty Assembly strongly endorses the manner in which President Tom Ross continues to lead the University of North Carolina System; and

Be It Further Resolved:
That the UNC Faculty Assembly calls upon the Board of Governors to articulate the rationale for their stated need for a "transition in leadership," a transition that implies a change in direction that has neither been discussed nor vetted with campus leadership, faculty, or the people of North Carolina.