MINUTES
Board of Visitors
September 29, 2017


I. Introduction
The Board of Visitors Meeting was held at the Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center on September 29, 2017.

II. Legislative Update and Luncheon Presentation
A luncheon presentation was provided by Representative Stephen Ross, who gave the BOV an overview of General Assembly accomplishments. Representative Ross focused part of his presentation on improvements to North Carolina’s economy; citing the creation of 70,000 new jobs, North Carolina maintaining a Triple A bond rating, and record tourism revenues. He noted that the General Assembly restored the teaching assistants budget, with an emphasis on STEM education. He stated that the GA has worked to build a “rainy day” fund to help with emergency needs and has reduced unfunded liabilities. He also noted support for the Bright Futures Act which will provide internet service in eight rural counties that currently have limited to no access to the world wide web.

II. Welcome and Approval of Minutes
Chair Flink called the meeting to order and thanked the members of the board for their attendance. Flink asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Erik Dixon, seconded by Judi Grainger and unanimously approved by the Board. He then recognized the Chancellor to give a campus update.

III. Chancellor Woodson’s Campus Update
Chancellor Woodson began the Board of Visitors update noting that copies of Michael Walden’s new book “North Carolina Beyond the Connected Age” were provided to each BOV member along with an NC State sweatshirt.

The Chancellor discussed the 2017 freshman class: 27,000 applications were received for 4,400 available admissions. NC State was able to enroll 4,750 students in the fall semester as a result of transfer students and deferred enrollment.

The Think and Do campaign has now topped the $1.25 billion mark. The campaign is slated to conclude in June 2021. The Chancellor has confidence that the University will reach the stated $1.6 billion goal. Additionally, the Chancellor added that 71 new scholarship funds have been created along with 11 new endowed faculty chairs. NC State remains a research powerhouse, attracting more than $400 million in sponsored research and ranking 5th among universities in technology commercialization.

Regarding athletics, NC State finished 29th in the Sears Directors Cup. The men’s and women’s swimming teams won the ACC Championship. The Chancellor noted that Saturday’s football game is Military Appreciation Day. He thanked those members of the BOV for their military service.

IV. Chair of Board of Trustees Report
Jimmy Clark, past member and chair of the Board of Visitors, is a member of the Board of Trustees and the newly elected chair. Mr. Clark described new Trustees that joined the Board this summer.
He noted that the Trustees are very committed to “student success” as the Chancellor noted in his remarks. Primarily the Trustees are concerned with the 6-year graduation rate and want to see that improve. Mr. Clark believes that the primary challenges to student success lie in both academics as well as the affordability of higher education.

Brig. General Jennings asked what the Board of Visitors could do to assist the Board of Trustees in achieving these goals. Mr. Clark responded that from the perspective of keeping education affordable, it would be useful to have BOV members touch base with members of the General Assembly to reinforce this important issue.

General Odierno asked about the ratio of out-of-state to in-state students. Chancellor Woodson responded that 82% of the freshman enrollment is in-state and 18% out-of-state. The Chancellor noted that NC State is the only North Carolina university with a freshman student from nearly all 100 counties.

John Palmour asked Mr. Clark about the 6-year graduation rate. Mr. Clark responded that currently NC State’s graduation rate is in the high 70’s (percent) while peer institutions are in the low 80’s (percent). The Board of Trustees would like to see this improve to be in line with peer institutions.

Erik Dixon asked Mr. Clark and the Chancellor if there is a conflict between emphasizing the need for basic skills education with a need for more critical thinking. Mr. Clark and the Chancellor responded that both areas of academics are equally emphasized. Mr. Clark noted that part of the solution is more classes are being recorded via video and made available in digital format to students, providing a more comprehensive learning environment.

Katyna Borroto-Esoda asked the Chancellor how NC State attracts and retains graduate students. The Chancellor responded that this is always a challenging situation, however the Triangle is a great market for post graduate jobs. He said a recent study indicated that 65% of recent international graduates have stayed, obtained work permits and remained in the area. Mr. Palmour added that he would like to see more United States students with STEM degrees.

**V. Campus Capacity and Assessment Study**

Vice Chancellor Scott Douglass and Associate Vice Chancellor Doug Morton provided an outstanding presentation on the Campus Capacity Plan. Mr. Douglass emphasized that the goal is to better understand the needs of the University and to figure out how to best meet those needs. The goal is to use the assessment to inform a future physical master plan. The assessment is focused on physical and programmatic principles and to determine if NC State is maximizing the use of its real estate.

General Odierno asked how much more land does NC State need? He also wanted to know if all of the roads that extend through the campus are needed? Is it possible to trade-off land? Mr. Douglass responded that these are the kind of questions that need answers and the assessment is designed to move the University toward answers. Mr. Douglass stated that NC State has too many plans and that the planning process has not been as inclusive as it should have been in the past.

Pamela Townsend asked about the influence of Dix Park on this process? The Chancellor responded that he serves on the Dix Park Master Plan Executive Committee. He added that he supports the capacity and assessment study to determine NC State’s needs. He noted that currently, NC State is 94% occupied -- which is a problem for recruiting new public-private partnerships to the campus.

Paul Boney stated that the process of campus development tends to be politicized and having the assessment is a great tool, but we also need to remain diligent in conversations with the General Assembly about NC State’s needs and how to best meet those needs.

**VI. Student Success**
Following a short break, Provost Warwick Arden made a presentation regarding Student Success, a five-year assessment from 2011-2016. The Provost noted that the assessment aligns with goals of the Strategic Plan, examining how NC State invests in faculty and infrastructure, interdisciplinary scholarship and strategic partnerships. The focus is on long-term results, and it takes time to realize student success. The Provost noted that enrolling at NC State has become more competitive, however the focus is not so much on enrollment as it is on graduation.

NC State is making improvements in the tutoring of students once they are on campus, building more academic support centers, improving student counseling services, and creating hubs that are geared toward academic clusters. NC State is also investing in technology to better connect with students through mobile applications and through online courses. As a result, NC State’s freshmen retention rate is improving and the graduation rate is improving, as discussed earlier in the meeting. The goals are to keep improving in both areas. NC State’s ranking among peer universities is improving.

VII. Men’s Wrestling Coach Pat Popolizio
Chair Flink introduced men’s wrestling coach Popolizio. Coach Pop talked about the incoming freshman class, currently ranked #1 in the nation. He cited the team GPA of 3.0 as an important milestone for the program. He noted the hire of a full-time assistant coach who will help with all elements of the program. He stated that there is accountability both on and off the mat when it comes to being an NC State wrestler. The team is currently nationally ranked (between 8th and 12th depending on ranking service). Coach Pop described how excited he is to take his team to Naples, Italy for the first international wrestling meet. He hopes that the BOV will attend a wrestling match soon and witness the intensity and excitement that is associated with college wrestling.

VIII. Wolfpack Athletics Update
Chair Flink introduced Athletic Director Debbie Yow for an update on Wolfpack Athletics. AD Yow stated that given the recent developments at the University of Louisville and concerning the arrest of assistant coaches and apparel company personnel, she wanted to address NC State’s athletic program philosophy and values. She handed out a chart that described NC State’s operations approach which included topline goals: Establish the Culture, Reinforce the Culture and Act with Integrity. She described that all head coaches and assistant coaches attend regular work sessions to discuss the philosophy and values of operating the athletics program. The goal is to run an athletics program that is, to the greatest extent possible, free from the outside influence of sports agents and those who seek to capitalize on student athletes.

X. Adjourn – Closing Remarks
Chair Chuck Flink provided concluding remarks and thanked all in attendance. Following the meeting, the BOV attended a reception hosted by Chancellor and Mrs. Woodson at The Point. The next meeting of the Board of Visitors will take place on Friday, March 2, 2018.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Chair Charles Flink.