Good Morning Trustees. The Board of Visitors met on Friday, March 6, 2020 for its regular biannual meeting.

BOARD of TRUSTEES UPDATE:
Chair Cabaniss brought the Board of Visitors up to date on the Board of Trustees’ approved increase in student fees and tuition. Even though the Board of Governors approved up to a 3% increase for the UNC System, NC State’s increase was kept to under 1%. In addition, the Chair recognized Charlie Maimone, Vice Chancellor of Finance & Administration. Chair Cabaniss served on the search committee to fill this important position and is very satisfied the right person was hired for this job. Having worked previously at UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington, Charlie knows the inner workings of the System well.

CHANCELLOR’S UPDATE:
Chancellor Woodson reported that the university is deep in proactive COVID-19 planning, with a strong focus on being extremely responsive to our campus community. He and his staff are working on academic continuity plans, travel restrictions, what to do with students and faculty working in affected areas, etc. Due to the ever evolving nature of the pandemic, guidance both internal and external to the university is constantly shifting. The Chancellor is serving as a co-chair on the UNC System task force to address the many issues that will continue to arise from the COVID-19 crisis.

NC State has received 31,000 applications for admission with over 22,000 in the early action time period. Applications are coming from 99 out of 100 counties, all 50 states and 24 countries. The university expects to seat a freshmen class of 4,775 in the fall.

The university received a $6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of its “Apprenticeship: Closing the Skills Gap” grant program. N.C. State’s four-year grant program will focus on artificial intelligence.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has been named as a World Health Organization partner with the global challenge of antibiotic resistance comprising part of their research.

The Watauga Medal Awards reception and dinner was held last night honoring 3 recipients – Mr. Steve Angel, Dr. Kady Gjessing and Ms. Nancy Ridenhour.

Lastly, the Chancellor gave the Board an introduction to the new Strategic Plan discussion. The last Strategic Plan began in the summer of 2010 with approval from the BOT in April 2011. That plan has been in effect from 2011 until now (2020).

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW & PROCESS:
Provost Warwick Arden and Interim Senior Vice Provost for Institutional Research and Planning, Margery Overton, reviewed the Strategic Plan overview and process. The planning process started in the fall of 2019 with a leadership retreat and subsequent task force development. The task forces and a Strategic Planning Executive Steering Committee have been launched to gather input and prepare reports. A Strategic Plan draft is expected in the fall of 2020, with approval from the Board of Trustees at their fall meeting.
The Board of Visitors then had the opportunity to offer their input into the next strategic plan for the university. We were divided into four breakout groups with each group representing two combined task forces. Each group was presented with four questions to consider per task force. A reporter from each group was chosen to report out to the full Board during a wrap up discussion. Many thought-provoking ideas were presented to the university task force co-chairs for consideration.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
Senator Dan Blue shared a legislative update with our Board at lunch. A longtime leader in the North Carolina General Assembly, Senator Blue represents Wake County. He discussed budget concerns as well as the lack of a mini budget passage in the area of education during the previous session.

The short session of the NC General Assembly is set to start in April where they will revisit these issues as well as a response to the COVID-19 challenge.

The next meeting of the Board of Visitors will be held Friday, October 9, 2020.

Thank you Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

Judi Grainger