February 2017

To: Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

From: Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor

Re: Chancellor’s Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

With the spring semester of the 2016-17 academic year in full swing, I wanted to reach out to you with a handful of highlights, challenges, and opportunities that are currently on our radar.

The fall semester was definitely an interesting one. While we celebrated several great and exciting events, including the 70th anniversary of our University’s founding and the launch of our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, we also weathered one of the most challenging times we’ve experienced during my tenure here as Chancellor. In the days and weeks following the officer-involved shooting in the University area, our city and campus community grappled with the same difficult issues and tensions that have enveloped the nation. I was proud of how our students, staff, and faculty came together to express their fears, anger, and frustrations peacefully and respectfully.

In addition to the many happenings in Niner Nation, we’re also in the midst of some pretty interesting times at the state and national levels. In a tumultuous political climate, it encourages me to know that there are 49ers out there doing their part to serve society through the political process. I want to thank NC Representatives Mike Hager (’87) and Tricia Cotham (’01), and NC Senator Bob Rucho (’94) for their distinguished service. This past November, two new 49ers, Mary Belk (’06) and Linda Hunt Williams (’96) joined fellow representatives Dean Arp (’99), Jason Saine (’95), Bill Brawley (’78), Kelly Hastings (’09), Cecil Brockman (’06), and Senator Joyce Waddell (’78) in the NC General Assembly. Lt. Gov. Dan Forest (’93 and ’94) was reelected, as was U.S. Congressman Richard Hudson (’96).

In the following pages you will see updates from various areas across the University. I know it’s a lot to read…but that’s because there’s a lot going on! I hope you will take a few minutes to scan these pages. I think you’ll be amazed and excited to see what our folks are up to. And I think you’ll feel really proud to be a Niner.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PLANNING LEGAL EDUCATION

Academic planning for new degree programs does not typically attract media attention, but the struggles of the for-profit Charlotte School of Law certainly had that effect, resulting in many people asking whether UNC Charlotte would be willing to start up a new law school.

Most people would not know that we actually initiated conversations on campus and in the legal community way back in 2007-08 about the possibility of developing a law school at UNC Charlotte. However, the Great Recession stopped those conversations dead in their tracks, as many lawyers lost their jobs, newly produced J.D.s could not find work, and the University’s budget was subject to recurring reductions.

With that said, the problems at the Charlotte School of Law prompted us to begin an assessment of the future of legal education in the greater Charlotte region. During a regularly scheduled meeting of our Board of Trustees in early February, I briefed trustees on local, state, and national trends in legal education and employment for recent law school graduates. My presentation also focused specifically on the most recent five years of data relating to applicants and admittees to North Carolina’s seven law schools, including Charlotte School of Law, Campbell University, Duke University, Elon University, North Carolina Central University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University. I also examined the tuition and fee costs of each institution, available financial aid, bar passage rates, and overall costs for supporting a law school.

The current available information does not support a strong case for the immediate creation of another public law school in North Carolina, but the situation could change over time if the market for new lawyers strengthens in the Charlotte region and across the state. I also indicated to the Trustees that alternate types of legal education, including professional non-degree certificate programs or a master’s degree in legal studies, might be attractive to both employers and prospective students in fields such as compliance and human resources.

The Trustees took no formal action as a result of my report, but encouraged me to continue my due diligence to determine immediate and long-term needs associated with law-related education. A follow-up report will be presented later in the year.
NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

For UNC Charlotte to properly serve the educational needs of the greater Charlotte region, we are always looking out for opportunities to create new degree programs. As a result, five new degree programs will be offered for enrollment during 2017:

- Master of Science in Cyber Security (CCI) (Spring 2017)
- Ph.D. in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation (CoED) (Fall 2017)
- Doctorate in Business Administration (BCOB) (Fall 2017)
- Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Management (CHHS – Department of Public Health Sciences) – will prepare students for jobs in the healthcare industry or for graduate programs in the health sciences (Fall 2017)
- Master of Science in Respiratory Care (CHHS – Department of Kinesiology) – online program to serve respiratory care professionals seeking advanced training, and to prepare others for teaching and practice (Fall 2017)

NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Because so many of our students depend upon financial aid provided by the federal and state governments and because we are typically unable to meet all of students’ documented financial need, we rely upon the generosity of alumni and friends to help us provide the dollars necessary for students to complete their degrees.

- The Martin Scholars Program

A new scholarship program has been established to remove barriers and attract students to honors programs and other enrichment opportunities.

Through the generosity of Demond T. and Kia Martin (of Popp Martin Student Union fame), the Martin Scholars Program will provide merit scholarships to Pell-eligible honors students from underrepresented groups. Additionally, the program will provide funding to support study abroad and professional internships.

To date, three students have been selected to receive merit scholarships to fund their unmet financial need for the fall and spring semesters of 2017. The students will also receive support to study abroad during spring break through a class, or during summer session through a program-based experience.
• **Bonner Leaders Program**

During Fall 2016, UNC Charlotte's Bonner Leaders Program admitted its inaugural class of twelve Bonner Leaders. The Bonner Leaders Program at UNC Charlotte is an intensive, four-year community engagement opportunity for undergraduates. Bonner Leaders are selected through a highly competitive process open to incoming first-year students eligible for federal work-study awards. The program is committed to the belief that students can address critical social issues by providing them with an avenue to positively impact their campuses, the local community, and the world through leadership and academic excellence. Bonner Leaders are currently placed at five community organizations and institutions in the Charlotte area: Discovery Place, the Levine Museum of the New South, Camino Community Center, Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, and Friendship Trays/Gardens. The program will be adding new partners for 2017.

• **Belk Scholars Program**

In 2013, Belk, Inc. made a gift of $5 million to the Belk College of Business. It was the largest single gift in the College’s history, and a substantial portion of the gift went toward the creation of a scholarship for students interested in business analytics. Since that time, 12 Belk Scholars have been accepted and will receive both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years through the Belk Scholarship, which covers full tuition and fees. Through this program, the generosity of the Belk organization is providing the opportunity of a lifetime for some very deserving and grateful students. Former Belk CEO Tim Belk joined us on campus in October to meet the Belk Scholars.

• **49er Gold Rush Scholarship**

UNC Charlotte launched the **49er Gold Rush Scholarship** program this fall to mitigate barriers to timely graduation through the granting of one-time completion micro-grants of $1,500. The Gold Rush Grant is offered by invitation only to selected students who are within two semesters of graduating from UNC Charlotte and have demonstrated financial need during their senior year at the University. In order to receive the grants, students must agree to participate in two activities designed to help them be more successful in their future careers. These activities may include participating in an online financial literacy training module, attending a career workshop, or developing a degree completion plan.
• **T. L. Reynolds Graduate Student Research Award**

A generous gift from Graduate School Dean Tom Reynolds provided for the establishment of the **T. L. Reynolds Graduate Student Research Award**, a new endowed fund which supports exceptionally talented graduate students. Funds are available to currently enrolled students to support program-specific research or scholarship (e.g., thesis or dissertation research, but not a class project). The award is intended to defray costs for conducting clearly defined research relating to the student’s graduate program of study.

**UPDATES FROM COLLEGES and SCHOOLS**

**COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS**

This semester, Dr. David Wilson (SIS) is teaching an **Interaction Design Studio** in collaboration with Richard Chi (Biology). The topic of the Design Studio will be on design and interaction issues around 3D printing of prosthetics for kids. Dr. Chi has been working with the CCI Makerspace to build a prosthetic hand for Amy, a 9-year-old girl who lives in Texas. He also brings connections to the Helping Hand Project, a regional nonprofit organization based in Chapel Hill, NC that specializes in providing 3D printed prosthetic hands free of charge for children in need.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

UNC Charlotte’s **School of Nursing** has achieved national acclaim by the National League of Nursing as a **Center of Excellence** in the area of Creating Environments that Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development. This achievement is a testament and confirmation of the strong academic programs offered within the School of Nursing.

Through a partnership between the College of Health and Human Services and the Mecklenburg County Health Department, a new **Academy for Population Health Innovation** (APHI) has been established. Its goal is to make Charlotte the nation’s healthiest community through cutting-edge research, impact-oriented interventions, big data and analytics, and community-based education. (Read more at: [http://health.uncc.edu/news/unc-charlotte-chhs-and-mecklenburg-county-health-department-launch-academy-public-health](http://health.uncc.edu/news/unc-charlotte-chhs-and-mecklenburg-county-health-department-launch-academy-public-health))

**Child maltreatment**, a deeply troubling and often under-reported public health problem, was the subject of a half-day workshop presented by School of Nursing professor Kathy Jordan. More than 150 area nurses attended the seminar, the goal of which was to raise awareness and help nurses identify and address cases of child maltreatment. (Read more at: [http://health.uncc.edu/news/nursing-workshop-addresses-child-maltreatment](http://health.uncc.edu/news/nursing-workshop-addresses-child-maltreatment))
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNC Charlotte scholar Tanure Ojaide has been named this year’s recipient of the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM), in the Humanities category. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari presided over the investiture ceremony on December 1 in Abuja, the country’s capital. Established in 1979, the Nigerian National Order of Merit is the highest academic honor in Nigeria. Ojaide, who is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies, is a prolific writer with over 30 books. A two-time Fulbright Scholar, he was also the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.

One hundred twenty-five faculty in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences were honored in early December for either publishing a book or for receiving external research funding or an award from an external professional society. Among those honored for their past year’s work were faculty members who collectively had published 23 books in 2016. Ninety-one faculty members received research funding from 67 external funders.

Three faculty members received "lifetime achievement awards" from professional organizations - Mark West, James Douglas and Bobby Hobgood:

- For his international work in advancing public sector performance, UNC Charlotte researcher James Douglas has received the Senator Peter B. Boorsma Award from the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration. The Boorsma Award honors practitioners and academicians who facilitate the international exchange of knowledge and administrative practices that foster better performance in the public sector.

- Bobby Hobgood, Director of the Language Resource Center in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies, received the FLANC (Foreign Language Association of North Carolina) Honorary Life Member Award in October. The honor is bestowed upon language educators who have demonstrated leadership in foreign language education both statewide and nationally. Hobgood was described as a consummate language educator who is dedicated to learners of all ages.

- Mark West, Chair of the Department of English, received the 2016 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award. Presented by the Children’s Literature Association, the award recognizes significant contributions in scholarship and service to the field of children’s literature over the course of a career.
COLLEGE OF ART + ARCHITECTURE

- Dance Professor’s Work Reviewed by The New York Times

A lost dance by modern dance master Paul Taylor, reconstructed by Associate Professor of Dance Kim Jones, was recently reviewed in The New Times by chief dance critic Alastair Macaulay. The reconstruction was the result of an 18-month process and was funded in part by a Faculty Research Grant, a gift from the Wells Fargo Foundation, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tracer is one of seven works by Taylor for which no complete record of the choreography exists. One of 13 dances that Taylor created with the great American artist Robert Rauschenberg, it premiered in Paris in April 1962 and was last performed in 1964. During an extensive research process that culminated in a residency at UNC Charlotte, Jones worked with dancers of the Taylor 2 Dance Company, who premiered the reconstructed Tracer in Robinson Hall on September 30, 2016. A New York Times article on August 26 described her research process.

The Taylor 2 Dance Company performed Tracer in New York City at the 92nd Street Y on December 16 and 17. The Times review praised Jones’s reconstruction work for its “instinct and imagination as well as research.” Paul Taylor has accepted the reconstructed Tracer into the Taylor company repertory.

UNC Charlotte students have also learned Tracer and will perform the work throughout the spring semester in local high schools and in the Spring Dance Concert April 1-4.

OTHER EXCITING NEWS

- Charlotte Banks

Currently, the demand for organ transplants in the U.S. is estimated to outweigh the supply by a factor of 5 to 1. This is due, in part, to a lack of medium- and long-term storage strategies for donor tissues and organs.

In an exciting example of university scientists and regional stakeholders joining forces to meet this critical need, our very own Dr. Gloria Elliott (professor of mechanical engineering and engineering science) will lead Charlotte Banks, a new grassroots effort to coordinate organ preservation research activities in the Charlotte region.
The “Charlotte Banks” project is a cross-disciplinary research effort focused on reducing the waitlist for organ transplants by improving preservation solutions and other technologies that can increase access to, and utilization of, donated organs.

A Valentine’s Day symposium entitled “Conversations of the Heart” served as a public kick-off for this project and brought together researchers from Social Work, Economic Policy, Health Economics, Biological Sciences, and Engineering to discuss the many dimensions of organ donation and placement and how we are working as a community toward positive change.

**RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Bob Wilhelm and his staff at the Charlotte Research Institute, we have made excellent strides to position the University as a key driver of the regional economy.

- **University receives Innovation & Economic Prosperity University Designation from APLU**

Most recently, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and its Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity designated UNC Charlotte as an Innovation & Economic Prosperity University. This national designation acknowledges public research universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development. UNC Charlotte is now one of 54 public schools to hold this designation.

CRI Director of Research, Bruce LaMattina, led the UNC Charlotte team over the ten-month process. Others on the team included Clay Andrews and Jim Currie, also from CRI, Owen Furuseth from Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs, Jeanette Sims from Community Affairs, and Ben Uhrich from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Additional help was provided by Jenny Matz from Community Affairs, and Lesley Brown and Joy McAuley in Research and Economic Development’s Office of Proposal Development.

- **Yokohama Tire Partnership**

The Charlotte Research Institute on the UNC Charlotte campus offers a nationally competitive research and development environment for our faculty and students, and also for corporate partners. Yokohama Tire is CRI’s newest business partner tenant, having moved into the PORTAL building in 2016.

Yokohama Tire Corporation has announced plans to locate a research and development center in Concord’s International Business Park. Until that facility is ready, the company is housing up to 22 workers on UNC Charlotte’s campus in the PORTAL Building.
This is the first North Carolina facility for Yokohama and the fourth international tenant in PORTAL, joining GOM, a German global manufacturer of optical measurement solutions and technologies, Redecam, an Italian manufacturer of pollution control equipment, and Sealed Air (more below). Yokohama has signed a one-year lease but could stay in the space longer, depending on its needs.

The Motorsports Research Laboratory, a part of the William States Lee College of Engineering, played a role in securing the company’s presence at UNC Charlotte. The lab houses the fifth-largest water channel in the U.S. The channel has a flow rate of more than 1,000 liters per second and is used for everything from vehicle aerodynamic research to power generation research.

- **Sealed Air Partnership**

Sealed Air Corporation conducted a media event in PORTAL on October 25. At this event, Vice Chancellor Bob Wilhelm and Sealed Air senior leadership, including Vice President for Global R&D and Chief Technology Officer Robert Tatterson, highlighted the mutually beneficial and expanding partnership between UNC Charlotte and Sealed Air. Sealed Air currently leases approximately 5,400 square feet of R&D office and lab space in the PORTAL building, and has recently announced an extended occupancy in its PORTAL development lab space.

- **CRI/University City Partners Collaboration**

The Charlotte Research Institute (CRI) and University City Partners (UCP) continued their strong collaboration with a very successful unveiling of the visioning plans for University City. The December event drew 200 attendees from campus and the Charlotte area to the PORTAL building. The discussion panel included Charlotte City Council member and Mayor pro tem Vi Lyles, Mecklenburg County Economic Development Director Peter Zeiller, and Charlotte Economic Development Director Kevin Dick. The program was moderated by Alyson Metcalfe Craig, Director of the University’s Master’s in Real Estate Program.

- **PORTAL Product Launches and Major Announcements**

In recent months, PORTAL has hosted product launch and major funding announcement events by three current business partner tenants: OncoTab, Inc. (cancer diagnostics), YobiFund.com (on-line crowd funding), and Atom Power (digital breakers). University and regional industry and government leaders gathered in PORTAL to celebrate these product launch events and reinforce the strength of UNC Charlotte-industry partnerships in the success cycles experienced by these three companies.

CLT Joules, a not-for-profit clean energy startup accelerator sponsored by Duke Energy, has continued to evolve its mission under the leadership of Executive Director Bob Irvin. It recently launched its Catalyst accelerator program, naming eight companies from around the country in its inaugural class. The class included UNC Charlotte spin-out Xoonix, with its advanced controls and sensors technology that improves the efficiency of electric power distribution.
• Summer Internship Program

In 2015, the UNC Board of Governors approved 3-year funding to pay the salaries of rising seniors to participate in summer internships with small companies across the state. The purpose of the summer internship program is twofold. First, the program gives students the opportunity to experience how businesses operate in a real life setting. Second, with little financial risk, small businesses that would not normally interact with the University get to see what students are capable of doing.

The University’s Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), located in the PORTAL Building, was tasked with implementing and managing the program for our campus beginning in the summer of 2016. To recruit students, the SBTDC partnered with the Career Center. For the first summer, six rising seniors were hired with majors in engineering, communications, public relations, and business. Participating companies from Mecklenburg and surrounding counties represent industries such as industrial parts manufacturing, manufacturing equipment sales, environmental remediation and consulting services, land surveying, and product assembly equipment and consulting.

In a survey conducted at the end of the summer all participants – both students and companies – reported that their experiences greatly exceeded their initial expectations. The SBTDC is currently organizing the upcoming 2017 summer internship program for at least 12 rising seniors.

STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

• Health Programs & Services, Counseling Center

In an interdepartmental collaboration, Dr. Lynne Harris, psychologist in the Counseling Center, and Dr. Lisa Russell-Pinson, faculty associate in the Center for Graduate Life, have created a support group for doctoral candidates to help them gain skills and strategies needed to meet the emotional and writing challenges inherent in the dissertation process.

The Counseling Center’s suicide prevention services continue to expand online, in-person, and across campus under the direction of Dr. Jessalyn Klein, psychologist and suicide prevention coordinator. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff now have access to two online suicide prevention training programs for helping students who are in distress. The At-Risk for Students module has been completed by 180 students.

The Counseling Center is offering two new four-session workshops in order to increase access to counseling for students during the busiest times of the semester. Both groups are focused on helping students build resilience in the face of increasing stress.

The “You’ve Got This!” workshop series helps students develop skills and strategies for reducing stress, effectively managing emotions, and improving communication with others. The “Stress
“for Success” workshop series includes rotating weekly topics such as managing worry to reduce overwhelming stress and channeling stress into positive energy for motivation and engagement in academic and personal life. Both groups were offered twice in the fall and will be repeated in the spring.

• **Student Affairs Development**

Thanks to the generous donors of a Giving Tuesday crowd funding initiative, the Niner Student Veterans Association (SVA) is headed to their annual conference in Anaheim, CA. After doubling their initial goal of $2,000, a generous donor gave a match of $4,000, bringing the total amount raised to more than $8,000. This funding will enable the current and incoming leadership of the Niner SVA chapter to attend this annual conference to support continuity of the student organization.

• **Recreational Services**

The UNC Charlotte Sport Club program recently participated as one of eight North Carolina universities in the First in Flight Against Hunger food drive. UNC Charlotte won the competition for the second straight year by donating more than four pounds of food per student athlete.

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT UPDATES**

UNC Charlotte celebrated its 70th anniversary in September with a spectacular inaugural Founders Celebration, which included the dedication of a time capsule, an engaging conversation with former Secretary of State Dr. Robert Gates, successful Giving Green and Niner Nation Gives fundraising campaigns, and the 41st annual International Festival.

The highlight of the Founders Week celebration was the official launch of the EXPONENTIAL Campaign, the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the University. With a goal of $200 million, EXPONENTIAL: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte focuses on four major pillars that support, promote, and motivate student and faculty success: opportunity, resources, talent, and impact. The campaign announcement took place at the Karen A. Popp and Demond T. Martin Student Union, which was named in recognition of generous campaign donations from Board of Trustees member and former chair Karen Popp ('80) and former Foundation Board member Demond Martin ('97).

In addition to celebrating the naming of the Student Union, we have also celebrated two other naming gifts. The Department of Accounting in the Belk College of Business was named the Turner School of Accountancy in recognition of a $2.5-million gift from Tom Turner, emeritus faculty member. A $5-million Exponential Campaign gift from the Cato Corporation led to the naming of the Cato College of Education. These generous gifts provide much needed scholarship support, study abroad opportunities, and resources to attract and retain the best faculty around.
Gene Johnson ('73), chair of EXPONENTIAL: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte, was recently named Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and he also received the very prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine for exemplary service to the state of North Carolina.

Gene is a great friend to the University and to the City of Charlotte. He takes an active role in supporting the organizations that make the Queen City what she is today, including helping transform UNC Charlotte into a world-class university. We are deeply indebted to Gene for his strong support, generosity, and leadership over the years.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

• Let Me Play Luncheon

The 2016 “Let Me Play” luncheon surpassed a record $200,000 in funds raised to support women’s athletics. The annual event is designed to mobilize influential women in the Charlotte area to support women's athletics and to share with them the important role that athletic participation can play in the development of young women. Lynn Good, president and CEO of Duke Energy, served as the event chair and delivered keynote remarks. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear David Marsh, CEO and director of coaching at SwimMAC Carolina in Charlotte, reflect on his experience of coaching the 2016 Olympic women’s swimming team.

• Ogunjobi invited to Reese’s Senior Bowl

Red-shirt senior defensive lineman Larry Ogunjobi earned an invitation to the Reese’s Senior Bowl, which was played on January 28. Ogunjobi was a member of the 49ers "First Class" of football players and became the first 49er to earn first team all-Conference USA honors, the first to earn mention on Watch Lists for National Awards like the Bednarik Award (top college defender) and Outland Trophy (top interior lineman), and the first to be invited to the Senior Bowl, which attracts the top seniors in the country. He also holds the distinction of being the only 49er to start every game in school history. When he’s not tackling guards and quarterbacks, he spends his time tackling a double major in computer science and biology. Larry is expected to be a high draft pick in the upcoming NFL Draft.
• **Men’s and Women’s Soccer – NCAA tournament appearances**

Both our men's and women's soccer teams participated in the NCAA Tournament for the first time this year. The men advanced to the NCAAs for the sixth straight season as a national seed while the women made their first trip since 2008 and fifth overall after winning the Conference USA Tournament Championship. The men, ranked in the top 20 throughout the year, claimed the C-USA regular season title and swept the league's specialty awards, including Coach of the Year and Player of the Year. The women were led by Offensive Player of the Year, Martha Thomas.

• **Hosting 1977 Final Four Team for its 40th reunion**

On February 25, as part of our men's basketball reunion activities, the 49ers will host the 1977 Final Four Team as they celebrate their 40th reunion.

• **49ers and Charlotte Knights team up to bring pair of games to BB&T Stadium**

This season, the 49ers baseball team will once again partner with the Charlotte Knights to bring a pair of games to BB&T Stadium in uptown Charlotte. Be on the lookout for details about the games which are scheduled to take place on March 21 and March 28.

**FACILITY UPDATES**

Our Facilities Management team is firing on all cylinders these days and working hard to coordinate an unbelievable number of projects simultaneously.

One of the most complicated projects is the **renovation of the core academic complex**, which includes Macy, Denny, Garinger, Winningham, and Barnard. These buildings are among the oldest on our campus and they are in need of some important upgrades, including asbestos abatement, modernization of the heating and air conditioning systems, plumbing, electrical and fire protection systems, window replacement, corridor and classroom finish and lighting upgrades, and improvements to meet current code and ADA requirements. The buildings that make up the academic complex include many academic offices and classrooms, so their renovation will require a great deal of tactical planning, coordination, and flexibility as many faculty members and classes will be temporarily displaced and relocated elsewhere on campus.

The new **Health and Wellness Center** is moving through the design phase. Once completed, the Center will house gymnasium space, cardio and free weight training areas, multipurpose/group fitness rooms, a recreational pool, and office, locker, and support spaces for Recreational Services. Construction will start this summer, with completion expected in the Summer of 2019.

As a result of the construction of the Health and Wellness Center, it will be necessary to replace a large surface parking lot currently located on that site across the street from the Hauser Alumni
Pavilion. Football fans who have enjoyed tailgating at that location will be relocated. A major expansion of the Union Deck is in design to provide 570 additional parking spaces.

The Science Building project is in the schematic design phase. A construction manager has been selected. This much needed facility will include teaching and research labs, classrooms, student collaborative spaces, faculty offices and administrative areas. The project also includes a new data center for the campus and a regional utility plant. The building is expected to be completed and occupied in 2020 in time for fall classes to be held there.

In order to clear the site of the Science Building, a new Facilities Operations and Parking Services compound is being designed to replace buildings to be demolished. This will include shop areas, offices, and a warehouse for Receiving and Stores. The compound will be located near North Deck and Lot 25. Construction will start this July with occupancy Summer 2018.

A new Student Counseling Center will integrate counseling, student health, and wellness services in one area, enabling us to provide enhanced clinical and wellness services to our students. This Center is currently in the construction phase and is on track to be up and running this Fall.

This is just a sampling of the facility construction and renovation projects that are currently underway. We are also making several roadway improvements to reduce campus congestion. Two such projects have been completed thus far. The intersection of Highway 49 and Cameron Boulevard has been improved with the addition of a traffic signal and turn lanes, bike lanes, curb and gutter, and a sidewalk on Cameron from Hwy 49 to Alumni Way. Alumni Way has also been improved with the addition of a left turn lane from southbound W.T. Harris Blvd.

Also in the planning phase is a major redesign of John Kirk Drive, which should significantly improve the flow of traffic into and out of campus.

Finally, the Light Rail extension that will connect our main campus to uptown and our Center City facility is on track (no pun intended) to be completed this August. Be on the lookout for details about a grand opening to be scheduled sometime this spring. Once the project is complete, you’ll see trains coming through campus 103 times each day, providing our students, faculty, and staff unprecedented access to the amenities of Center City, and providing the rest of the Charlotte community easy access to all that we have to offer here on the main campus. Our staff is working with the leadership at CATS to develop an all-access pass for students, staff, and faculty that should make riding the light rail trains on a regular basis both more convenient and affordable.

That should do it for now. Back with more news after Commencement ceremonies in May.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor