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

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings! As another successful academic year comes to an end, this is an extraordinary and invigorating time to be a 49er. In May, we held the Spring Commencement, an event that is a great source of pride for the University community and our more than 3,500 spring graduates. Notably, the number of degrees awarded for the entire academic year climbed to 6,700! Our two ceremonies on commencement Saturday in May also gave us an opportunity to bestow doctoral hoods upon 64 new recipients of doctoral degrees, and thereby achieve an all-time record high of 134 doctoral degrees awarded for the year. We also had the opportunity to bestow an honorary degree upon the former Chair of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ruth Shaw, and to make a special medal presentation to Professor Joanne Robinson of the Department of Religious Studies as the UNC Charlotte recipient of the 2013 Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

Now that summer has arrived, I hope this newsletter finds you with much to celebrate in your own lives, and that you can now settle in to read about the good news from UNC Charlotte. And, as always, if you would like more information on any specific item mentioned in this newsletter, please feel free to contact my executive assistant, Shari Dunn (Shari.Dunn@uncc.edu).

You may also find the Chancellor’s Outbox as another useful information source: http://administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/chancellors-outbox.

Legislative/State Budget Update

As of this writing, the North Carolina General Assembly is in the midst of budget deliberations and therefore it is too early to predict the outcome. We know, however, that the UNC system will be subject to budget cuts but most likely in the 2-5% range versus the challenging budget reductions of over 16% that the University faced in 2011. We believe that the University is likely to receive funding for enrollment growth – funding that is imperative to our campus as we strive to keep up with the demand for higher education.
The Board of Governors made its 2013-2015 budget request to the General Assembly based on its newly developed strategic directions plan, “Our Time Our Future.” The strategic budget would continue to fund enrollment growth but assumes significant new efficiencies in both administration and instruction.

Our proposed Data Science and Business Analytics (DSBA) initiative continues to be UNC Charlotte’s highest priority this year. DSBA will directly support high-end job creation and business investments in the greater Charlotte region and across the state. UNC Charlotte is proposing DSBA as an industry-university-state partnership to broaden and deepen North Carolina’s ability to develop business analytics talent and stimulate strategic innovation. Through this partnership, we are seeking a combination of state investment and support from private sector partnering organizations to help UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte region eventually win the nationwide race for “Big Data” investment and jobs.

In the strategic directions plan adopted by the UNC Board of Governors for the next five years, data science was identified as one of the leading “game changing” areas of research and instruction that should be strengthened within the UNC System. UNC Charlotte is strategically positioned to launch this effort because of the concentration of large data-intensive industries in our region, including financial services, retail sales and distribution, healthcare, energy, and advanced manufacturing.

Through the budget request submitted by the campus to President Tom Ross, UNC Charlotte seeks a state investment of $3 million for implementing DSBA in Fiscal Year 2014 and an additional $2 million in Fiscal Year 2015 to recruit new faculty and technical staff members in the Colleges of Computing and Informatics, Business, and Health and Human Services. The proposed FY 2015 state funding would be a match investment, contingent upon the campus securing private-sector investments and documented pledges of at least $4 million by the end of 2014. Of course, until the General Assembly acts and the Governor signs the new budget for the next two years, we will not know whether any funding will be made available in the upcoming budget cycle.

We are all, of course, very excited by the $5 million investment from Belk, Inc. in the Belk College of Business that will, in part, support the DSBA initiative. This investment will be used to fund both an endowed Chair in Marketing Analytics and an endowed Professorship in Business Innovation. These senior faculty members provide additional research and teaching expertise in the growing fields of customer analytics and customer relationship management and will support our investment in the data analytics initiative. Matching funds from the State of North Carolina for endowed faculty positions will eventually add $1 million to the company’s investment in UNC Charlotte.

The Belk investment will also help the College develop a learn-work-hire program to prepare student participants for direct entry into the retail industry upon graduation.

Regional Support Initiative

In the University’s most recent action to build regional support in key neighboring communities, I visited Lincoln County in March along with other University representatives. In
my remarks to the Lincoln County Rotary, I discussed the strong connection between Lincoln County and UNC Charlotte - a connection which promises to grow even deeper in the future.

Altogether, the 12 counties in our region currently provide 15,233 of our students and are home to 55,049 of our alumni and nearly 36,000 UNC Charlotte donors. When we fully engage those students, alumni, and donors in the University’s future, we expand UNC Charlotte’s influence and reputation. When we expand our influence and reputation, we enhance our ability to offer students an affordable, high-quality education.

Currently, more than 350 undergraduate students at the University hail from Lincoln County, including 52 new freshmen in the fall of 2012 and a similar number of transfer students. Another 10 master’s and doctoral students from Lincoln County also attend UNC Charlotte.

During our visit, UNC Charlotte officials demonstrated a mobile application for emergency response to a group of first-responders. Called the Effective Emergency Response Communication (EERC) System, the app operates via wireless Internet and allows a “command center” to see where each officer is, tells officers where the suspect is, and sends three-dimensional directions in buildings with the shortest routes. The purpose is to give police a high-tech device to find suspects faster, which ultimately keeps people safer. The app, which is being implemented into the operations of our Department of Police & Public Safety, is the brainchild of Bill Ribarsky, chair of UNC Charlotte’s Computer Science Department and director of the Charlotte Visualization Center. Ribarsky developed the app along with associate professor K.R. Subramanian, graduate students and a research scientist. Pretty cool stuff!

We also discussed educational and health care partnerships between the University and Lincoln County schools and human services facilities and agencies. The day concluded with an alumni reception at the Court Street Grille, which featured head football coach Brad Lambert.

Our next visit is scheduled for mid-June in Union County. It will be another big day because Union County provides many students to the 49er Nation. These focused visits are part of a series of stops to the 12 counties that comprise the greater Charlotte region in an effort to strengthen relationships within the communities UNC Charlotte serves.

University Accreditation

This spring, an accreditation team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) visited campus as part of the process for reaffirmation of our accreditation for the next decade. I’m proud to say UNC Charlotte’s new Quality Enhancement Plan "Prospect for Success" was later described as “incredible” by members of the SACS team.

The QEP is a comprehensive plan to infuse freshman curricula with procedures and tactics to enhance student engagement in the UNC Charlotte experience to improve learning conditions and graduation.

Provost Joan Lorden noted that the work leading up to the site visit involved many individuals across the University. Dr. Christine Robinson served as the University’s accreditation manager and was a key leader in the overall success of our efforts to demonstrate compliance
with the SACS standards. John Smail, associate provost for undergraduate studies and dean of University College, also was instrumental in the development of the QEP.

Along with Robinson and Smail, the other members of the QEP executive committee are Bruce Taylor, University College and the College of Education; Charles Brody from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Teresa Dahlberg, from the College of Computing and Informatics; Liz Fitzgerald, director of first-year programs; Owen Furuseth from Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs; Jay Raja, academic affairs; and Cathy Sanders, institutional research.

**Football**

Anyone who might still be wondering if there was any excitement about bringing big-time college football to 49er Nation certainly got an answer at our [first Spring Game on April 20](#): a resounding yes!

We nearly filled the 15,300-seat stadium for the scrimmage and everyone seemed to have an extra spring in their step as we walked into the stadium on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon. Enthusiastic tailgating and 49er pride were evident across much of campus.

As the Niners raced out of the tunnel through smoke and rows of cheerleaders for the inaugural Green and White Spring Game, there were many who couldn't believe their eyes, and many of those eyes were a little misty.

The final countdown has begun for the first official game versus the Campbell Fighting Camels on August 31, 2013. My prediction stands: 49ers win 49-0. With the beautiful new stadium and the sounds of pads crashing, fan support has been growing. We have now sold nearly 95 percent of our available Forty-Niner Seat Licenses (FSLs), which translates into a projected $5.2 million worth of support for the football program. Currently, we have less than 300 FSL's left and that number is divided among the Green and Gold tiers, with only 120 Green Tier FSLs remaining.

Interested fans and corporations are encouraged to add their names to the growing reservation list for FSLs by calling the 49ers ticket office at 704/687-4949 or the 49ers Athletic Foundation at 704/687-4950, or by logging on to the 49ers official athletic website, [www.charlotte49ers.com](http://www.charlotte49ers.com).

**Leadership Changes and Additions**

Every quality institution in higher education depends upon strong leadership in its governing board, in administrative posts, and in the faculty, staff, and student body. Board of Trustees Chair Gene Johnson, the first UNC Charlotte alumnus to serve in that leadership role, will complete his three years of service as chair (and eight years as a member of the Board) on June 30 and will be succeeded by Karen Popp, another proud alumna of UNC Charlotte. Fortunately for us, Gene will not be leaving the 49er family as he will assume the important role as chair of the UNC Charlotte Foundation in July.
Also departing this year is trustee Mark Erwin. We want to thank Mark for his service and to acknowledge the importance of his expertise in construction and development to this fast-growing campus.

Newcomers to our Board of Trustees include Marion Sullivan of Atlanta, appointed late last fall by former North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue, and Theresa Drew, the Managing Partner for the Carolina practice of Deloitte here in Charlotte. Theresa was elected to her post on the Board of Trustees by the UNC system Board of Governors and will begin her service on July 1. The Board of Governors also re-elected sitting Trustees Karen Popp, Mary Ann Rouse, and Michael Wilson to additional full four-year terms. Incoming student board president Brady Nails, who was sworn in at the May 23 meeting, will replace Conor Dugan, who graduated in May. Student Body Presidents serve as ex-officio voting members of the Board for the duration of their term in office.

Beyond the Trustees, one of the most significant changes that will be seen on July 1 is the result of an unhappy event for all of us, the retirement of Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun after fourteen years of service as Dean of Education at UNC Charlotte.

While I’m thrilled for Mary Lynne and her family, it will be different without her positive can-do attitude and strong vision for this important college. She is well known for her dedication to her department chairs and faculty, particularly in working hard to provide them as many resources as she can – and in providing them a collegial environment that supports their work.

The College enrolls more than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students in professional education programs. UNC Charlotte has become the second largest producer of new teachers in North Carolina, recommending more than 600 new teachers for the North Carolina license each year.

Mary Lynne’s legacy runs deep. She joined the University as assistant professor of special education in 1982. Following her appointment as Dean of the College of Education in 1999, she oversaw the expansion of graduate education. During her tenure, we added doctoral degrees in counseling, curriculum and instruction and special education and master’s degrees in teacher education and teaching English as a Second Language, which doubled graduate enrollment.

Under Mary Lynne’s leadership, the College of Education received glowing reviews from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, serving as a national model for institutional organization and expectations.

Most recently, as the college celebrated its 40th anniversary, Mary Lynne helped dedicate the Cato Teaching Discovery Mural which honors great educators and will serve as a teaching tool for the campus and the greater community. During a reception in her honor on April 9, I announced that the atrium of the College of Education would be named for Mary Lynne in recognition of her service to the University. It’s a fitting tribute to a passionate advocate for thousands of teachers across North Carolina and the nation.
Mary Lynne’s successor is Ellen McIntyre, currently the interim associate dean of academic affairs at N.C. State University. She will start working July 1 at her new post. Prior to her July 2012 appointment as interim associate dean of academic affairs, McIntyre spent five and a half years as a leader and administrator in N.C. State University’s College of Education, where she was influential in securing external funding and in developing new degree programs.

Before joining N.C. State, McIntyre was a professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville. As a scholar, her research agenda focused on instruction for populations of students with a history of high failure rates in U.S. schools. She was appointed as University Scholar at the University of Louisville in recognition of her research productivity and ability to obtain external funding.

McIntyre received a Doctor of Education in Language and Literacy Education from the University of Cincinnati in 1990. She earned a Master of Arts in Reading Education and Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Northern Kentucky University.

I know that Ellen is excited to be joining us and we are looking forward to her joining our leadership team this summer.

Facilities Update

Many capital projects I have reported on in previous newsletters are nearing completion:

- Two new residence halls – Hunt Hall in South Village and Phase X on the north side of campus – will be available for student occupancy in the 2013 Fall Semester. Hunt Hall will house 436 freshman students, while Phase X will house 412 upperclassmen.

- The South Village area of campus, located near the existing high-rise facilities, includes the addition of Hunt Hall and a new 1,200-car parking deck (South Deck). Construction of the new South Village Dining Facility is well underway, with an anticipated opening in 2014.

- Renovation of the first high-rise constructed at UNC Charlotte, Holshouser Hall, currently in the design phase and scheduled for completion in 2015, includes brick cladding on the exterior and an “extreme makeover” and modernization of the interior.

- Design of Phase XIII, the next new South Village residence hall to be located adjacent to Holshouser, is also underway with its opening planned for summer of 2015. To improve campus traffic flow around South Village, High Rise Road is being realigned to intersect with Toby Creek Road at Harris Alumni Center. The combined roads from the front traffic circle to W. T. Harris Boulevard will be renamed “Alumni Way.”

- Construction of our partnership building (PORTAL), located in the CRI area of campus, is also scheduled for completion in January 2014.

- Design is also underway on the long-awaited realignment of Phillips Road. If you don’t know where Phillips Road is, I’ll remind you that it is the very steep road that leads from the center of campus down into the athletic fields area. The project includes new four-
way signalized intersections at Craver and Cameron Roads (near the Student Union) and Cameron and Mary Alexander Roads (near the Greenhouse) and a new bridge over Toby Creek.

In addition to these projects, we are in the very early stages of planning for a hotel/conference center to be built along Tryon Street just south of the PORTAL building on land owned by the UNC Charlotte Foundation. This complex would give UNC Charlotte the capacity to integrate academic and other conferences with facilities on campus, serve as a “home away from home” for alumni returning to campus, allow us to provide on-campus accommodation for faculty/staff recruiting, and serve as a hotel for visiting intercollegiate athletic teams. Stay tuned for much more on this in the coming months.

The groundbreaking for the Northeast Extension of the Lynx light rail line will be held in late July. We look forward to the completion of the $1 Billion project in Spring 2017. It will link our campus, students, and faculty with our Center City Campus and the businesses, organizations, arts and entertainment of Uptown Charlotte. Two stops will serve the University—one just south of our CRI campus on North Tryon Street and one right across the street from our North Village residence halls. For fans attending a football game or anyone who might want to access our campus, light rail will provide convenient and affordable transportation.

It has been an extraordinary year and we are very appreciative of your support. Thank you for allowing me to share the news from UNC Charlotte, and look for the next installment sometime in December.

Go Niners!

Cordially,

[Signature]

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please call 704-687-5729.

###