A Special Called Meeting of the Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees was held Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at 10:15 a.m. in the Rudolph Jones Student Center, Room 238. This was a combined meeting of the FSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor’s Cabinet. Chancellor Anderson presided.

ROLL CALL

While there wasn’t an official roll call, the following Board members were in attendance: Dr. Richard Adams, Mr. Claude Bogues, Mr. Wayne Branch, Ms. Bridget Chisholm, Mr. Kirk deViere, Mr. Jodie Ervin, Mrs. Vedas Neal, Dr. Inder Nijhawan, Mr. Donald Porter, Mr. Rajan Shamdasani, and Ms. Brenda Timberlake. Others in attendance were: Chancellor James Anderson, General Counsel Wanda Jenkins, Dr. Jon Young, Dr. Janice Haynie, Mr. Kenneth Craig, Dr. Bertha Miller, Nick Ganesan, and Mr. Anthony Todd Bennett.

INTRODUCTION OF UNC PRESIDENT MARGARET SPELLINGS

This meeting is to provide the opportunity for President Spellings to meet members of the Fayetteville State University Board of Trustees (Board) and Chancellor Anderson’s Administrative Cabinet (Cabinet). Chancellor James Anderson introduced President Margaret Spellings to the group followed by an introduction of each member of the Board and Cabinet.

Chancellor Anderson asked President Spellings the following: 1) What advice to you have for those at the System level, 2) What do you see as problem areas, and 3) Where do you see the university/system going in the future?

President Spellings praised Chancellor Anderson for his leadership and the progress he’s made at FSU. Although this was the first day on the job for President Spellings, she stated that we have an interesting dynamics between the legislators and the System. The demographics are constantly changing. She stated that bad press preceded her but she’d like for us to give her a chance. She feels that we are all working for a common cause and that everyone should have access, and as well be subjected to accountability.

Chancellor Anderson asked members of his team to respond to the following questions: 1) What makes you most proud about your institution/campus and the System more broadly, 2) What’s the most important issue facing higher education in North Carolina, and 3) Where do we have work to do?

Some of the answers were as follows:
Dr. Jon Young, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs: Dr. Young stated that he was most proud of FSU’s legacy. At FSU, we offer a high quality education to our students. Today, we serve a diverse population, especially for those who may not have had the opportunity for higher education, if it weren’t for FSU. Proud of goals.

Dr. Inder Nijhawan, FSU Board of Trustees: Dr. Nijhawan stated that he admired the commitment and dedication of FSU faculty to its students.

Dr. Bertha Miller, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Miller stated that the quality of education for our students has produced doctors, lawyers, engineers, and more. Didn’t have a problem competing. Dr. Miller sees that the level of funding is a concern moving forward. Our unity and culture are unique.

Mr. Getchel Caldwell, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement: Mr. Caldwell stated that he came to FSU at a good time—cultural philanthropy was present. There is 100 percent giving by the Board. There’s a certain yearning by the alumni base in that they love FSU. Alumni have increased their giving by approximately 15.5%. There’s been an impact with our relationship with the leadership at General Administration.

Mr. Kirk deViere – FSU Board of Trustees: FSU’s transformation from beginning to now… its rich history that includes the implementation and elevation of our nursing and business programs is what he’s most impressed with.

Mr. Rajan Shamdasani, FSU Board of Trustees: In speaking of tuition increase, look at what FSU has done… its growth as an institution.

Mr. Claude Bogues, FSU Board of Trustees: Mr. Bogues stated that he’s impressed with the professors at FSU, to include those who came out and taught at Ft. Bragg. FSU has made a college education available and affordable. He’s also proud of the structure, unity, and teamwork.

Ms. Brenda Timberlake, FSU Board of Trustees: Ms. Timberlake stated that she was impressed with the outstanding work of Dr. James Anderson and his staff. The level of excellence—locally and globally—is exceptional and has given FSU great exposure.

Dr. Janice Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs: Dr. Haynie stated that the students are proud of the university. The students are spirited. They were involved in the planning of the Rudolph Jones Student Center.

Mr. Ken Craig, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance: Mr. Craig spoke about the challenges the university faces or have had to face. FSU is a much smaller school than others in the system. It has experienced critical staff turnovers, turnover of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and other critical issues. Being fairly new to FSU but coming from the System Office, he’s had a chance to build a team, and that comes with 20 years of higher ed experience. He states that we have to be able to retain and recruit staff, share resources and services.

Mr. Nick Ganesan, Vice Chancellor for ITTS: Mr. Ganesan stated that he’s felt the effects of good personnel going to other schools. We (FSU) can’t compete with the market rate. ITTS does benefit from shared services with other schools in the System.
There are Teaching and Technology (TIT) Centers for faculty to go and learn. It’s almost as if we’re victimized for being a smaller school.

Mr. Donald Porter, Chairman of the FSU Board of Trustees asked President Spellings, where did she see the university in five (5) years? This question was also open to the Board.

Mr. Wayne Branch, FSU Board of Trustees, also asked of President Spellings the following: FSU will be celebrating its sesquicentennial in the next year. Given FSU’s rich history, is there still a desire to change its name from Fayetteville State University to The University of North Carolina at Fayetteville and why? What are the real benefits…backlash?

President Margaret Spellings, The University of North Carolina: President Spellings stated that she doesn’t know the genesis of the request for a name change; however, if the school doesn’t want a change, she doesn’t understand why we should.

Chancellor James Anderson, Fayetteville State University: Chancellor Anderson stated that there are people in the community who would like to see the name changed as it would open it up the doors to more donors. The university was built on its identity as FSU and it makes no sense to change it.

Mr. Donald Porter, Chairman of the FSU Board of Trustees: Chairman Porter stated that we must continue the excellence we’ve already gained. The university reflects the community. We must hire the best teachers so that we can continue the quality of education we’ve experienced.

Mr. Jodie Ervin, FSU Board of Trustees: Mr. Ervin spoke briefly about the rising cost of education and that the Board should look at more chronic problems.

The meeting of the FSU Board of Trustees and Chancellor’s Cabinet was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Ervin, Secretary
Suzetta Perkins, Recorder