

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 1990

REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR RICHARD EAKIN

Good afternoon. I would like to share some important information received recently from the General Administration and the Board of Governors. At the February 9, 1990 meeting of the Board of Governors, President Spangler reported on the initiation of a systemwide planning effort that would require each of the 16 constituent institutions to review and possibly revise its mission in order to ensure that the University of North Carolina will be positioned to deal with the new challenges facing higher education at the close of this century and the beginning of the 21st century. The President stated that the normal update procedure for the long-range plan will be foregone this year to allow the universities to rethink their missions and develop plans compatible with those missions.

While I cannot predict the format to be used in this planning process, it would appear that our work of the past eighteen months will position East Carolina University quite well to complete the requirements of UNC system planning. President

Spangler announced that he hoped to complete the planning process by the end of the year.

Later in this meeting, Sue Hodges, Director of Planning and Institutional Research, will report on the status of our planning.

East Carolina was awarded \$100,000 to replace the roof on the Willis Building at the Board of Governors' February 9, 1990 meeting. These funds, when joined with the \$500,000 allocation for campus lighting improvements, bring the total allocation to ECU for Capital Improvements-Repairs and Renovations to \$600,000 or 10% of the total set aside for this purpose systemwide.

President Spangler reported the results of the fourth annual intercollegiate athletic reports to the Board of Governors at the February 9, 1990 meeting. His report singled out East Carolina University for its significant improvement in the graduation rate of football players. Two years ago, the ECU football team had a 6-year graduation rate of 5%. Last year that rate improved significantly and this year the 6-year graduation

rate for the 1983 freshman football class was 62%. The 5-year rate for the 1984 freshman football class was 50%. I am pleased to report that the number of exceptions granted at East Carolina for admissions of athletes in the sports of football and men's basketball went from an average of twenty-five per year in the years 1980 through 1984 to eleven in 1986, fifteen in 1987, one in 1988, and one in 1989. My goal is to have no exceptions.

Applications for admission to universities in North Carolina have been the subject of considerable attention in the media during the past few weeks. Generally, the number of applications has decreased throughout the State of North Carolina. A decrease was expected in the number of traditional applicants because of the sharp reduction in the number of high school graduates in North Carolina from 1989 to 1990. The decline in the number of high school graduates will persist through 1994 when 57,573 high school graduates are expected, compared with 69,709 graduates in 1989.

Applications for admission to the 1990 freshman class total

6,981 compared with 8,075 at the same time last year. Because of increases expected in the number of transfer admissions and graduate student admissions, I expect that total enrollment will increase slightly for Fall, 1990. As you may recall, we have instituted a plan to increase standards for undergraduate admission, and we are continuing that plan in the face of a declining pool of high school graduates. To be successful, we will need to redouble our efforts to recruit quality students.

During the past few weeks several ECU representatives visited with guidance counselors from school systems in and about the cities of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Durham, and Raleigh. Future trips are planned for the Charlotte and Fayetteville areas. These visits are intended to acquaint guidance counselors with the diversity of undergraduate offerings at ECU and the opportunities for academic achievement present here. The initial four meetings were very well received by counselors. Much more needs to be done in ensuring that counselors and students are up-to-date in their understanding of

the advantages of attending East Carolina University. We may seek your assistance in this important work.

I would be happy to answer questions.