

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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August 24, 2009

To: Mr. Robert Jordan, Chair
Chancellor Search Committee
From: University Research Committee

Dear Chairman Jordan:

We take this opportunity to list several qualifications that we believe any candidate for Chancellor must possess to fulfill our mandate to serve the people of the State of North Carolina as a research-extensive, land-grant institution:

- Places exceptionally high value on research and has a stellar research record;
- Has a proven track record of effective administration at a top-tier university;
- Communicates effectively with the broad constituency that we serve; and
- Facilitates and communicates the crucial role that research plays in educating students, fueling technology for North Carolina, and providing revenue for NC State University.

We are a group of 15 faculty who advise the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education on achieving research excellence, which is central to our university's core missions of education, research, and extension and engagement. First-rate research ensures that students at all levels are trained in the latest achievements in science, engineering, and humanities. Research leads to technological breakthroughs and anchors the corporate base in RTP, Centennial Campus, and beyond. It supports work with community groups to generate, refine, and exchange relevant and mutually-beneficial knowledge. By driving economic and social development, research improves the lives of our citizens and society as a whole. Outstanding research achievements bring prestige to the university and to the State of North Carolina, while attracting the most talented graduate students and faculty who serve as exceptional role models to the entire student population.

It is vital that our next Chancellor be a research visionary who can effectively advance the research enterprise as a means for elevating our achievements and recognition to those of the top-tier universities with whom we strive to compete. In addition to the above, the chosen candidate must have the intellectual capacity to understand how the confluence of diverse research activities contributes to our strategic priorities; be politically savvy and serve as a strong force in setting science policy at the State, Federal, and International levels; bring public recognition and support for the research enterprise; and skillfully make the difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions necessary for improving the quality of all facets of NC State University.

NC State University is poised at a new threshold of greatness. Achieving that greatness will critically depend on our choosing a chancellor who will set very high goals and provide the strong, visionary leadership in research that is central to achieving these goals.

Sincerely,



Dean Hesterberg
Chair, University Research Committee
Professor of Soil Science