

Colleagues – Once again we are coming to the close of a challenging and rewarding academic year. This is our last faculty council meeting of the year and one of two meetings of the general faculty. Over the last weeks, we have enjoyed uniting around our men’s and women’s basketball teams and I want to congratulate both teams on their perseverance through both the highs and lows of the season. It has been fun to come together united behind these young people and their terrific coaches.

In addition this year, we have said goodbye to faculty colleagues we will miss. Thank you for joining me for a moment of reflection as we honor them.

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We have a full agenda today. But before we get started, I want to take a minute to thank all of you who participate in faculty governance whether you stand for election, agree to serve on an appointed committee, or lead a particular effort. As the last two years have demonstrated, faculty governance -as well as student and staff leadership – is important. Faculty, staff, and student governments are independent. These are parts of the university that are truly representative to the extent that people choose to get involved – standing for election, agreeing to serve in appointed committees, and by voting in our campus elections. Your ballot came to you yesterday. Take a minute to fill out that ballot and make your choices by April 19th. Faculty voice is only as strong as those who participate in it.

Last week, I along with a few others from UNC participated in a mini-conference at Duke entitled Democracy and the Politics of Higher Education. It was a powerhouse of participants from across the country thinking about the role of universities in a democracy, discussing when institutions should speak out on particular issues, and how to navigate complicated political waters. I was intimidated when it was my time to speak about Carolina. But I started out by saying what I truly believe. We are in the headlines for good and ill because what we do here and what we stand for matters. The struggles we face are happening in different forms on many campuses across the country. Other institutions and faculties watch what happens here in hopes that we can figure out how to chart seriously choppy waters. The conversations we have are sometimes hard. But it is the fact that we have them that is important. I want you to know that many campuses both within the UNC System and beyond cannot count on their chancellor, presidents, or provost meeting with them on a regular basis. They simply have no clear, regular, direct lines of communication. That has never been the case here and I hope it never will be.

We will have a difficult conversation today concerning speech, email, privacy, disclosures, and surveillance. There are several relevant considerations in my view: what an institution is allowed to do, whether an institution should do what they are allowed to do in any particular instance, and how an institution goes about taking such action. I have my own opinions about the events, once again in the news, that transpired around the Hussman donor agreement. But my opinions are not important. What is critical is the degree to which we, as a faculty, have confidence that our administration is acting justly and fairly in any given circumstance. I hope our conversation today can move us in that direction by providing an opportunity to think together with our administrative leaders about these questions that may have different answers given each set of circumstances.

We also have plenty of new business to attend to today. Therefore, we’ll start off with remarks from our Chancellor, then our Provost. Rather than have q & a immediately after their remarks, I’ve asked our

colleague from the School of Law Mary-Rose Papandrea to give us a high-level view of privacy and speech for faculty on campus. We'll then turn to a discussion of these issues with the Chancellor, Provost, and Professor Papandrea. Likely, we will not get every answer we want today or come to clear consensus. Other conversations will be needed. So, I'll stop the conversation after 20 minutes or so to accomplish our other business.

Chancellor, I'll hand it over to you.