



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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October 11, 2007

President Erskine B. Bowles
The University of North Carolina
910 Raleigh Road
P.O. Box 2688
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Dear President Bowles:

On March 8, 9 and 10, 2007, UNC-Chapel Hill's Institute for the Environment (IE), in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience, and Technology, other UNC-Chapel Hill units, the State Energy Office, and the Progress Energy Foundation, held its 2007 Environmental Symposium, *Energy and Environment in North Carolina*. The symposium was the latest in a series of symposia sponsored by the Institute and its predecessor, the Carolina Environmental Program (see http://www.ie.unc.edu/content/news_events/symposia.cfm).

Unlike past IE/CEP symposia, *Energy and Environment in North Carolina* was focused specifically on North Carolina, and on "the role of North Carolina universities and colleges in assisting the state in development of a new energy infrastructure" It started with a March 8 dinner at the U.S. EPA complex in Research Triangle Park that was attended by representatives of eight UNC system entities, as well as by representatives of the UNC General Administration (a lead faculty and a lead administrator in the energy/sustainability area from each UNC campus was invited to the dinner).

The event then moved to the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education. March 9 was devoted to a day-long discussion of how the university sector, particularly the University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions, could partner with the business, government and non-governmental sectors to move North Carolina forward in a carbon-constrained energy future.

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The closing session of the symposium, on the morning of Saturday, March 10, was focused on representatives from UNC system institutions. Four focus groups composed of personnel from across the UNC system looked at the role of the university in advancing energy and environment research, education, and outreach/public service/engagement; and in advancing the sustainability of the university and its constituent institutions. A wrap-up session led by Institute for the Environment Director Doug Crawford-Brown then closed this important event.

I am now conveying the final report concerning *Energy and Environment in North Carolina* to you, as specifically requested by the participants in the March 10 closing sessions. The report has just been mailed to all participants in the symposium as well.

As you will see, several items in the report refer specifically to the University of North Carolina:

- The sustainability working group called on the UNC general administration to provide resources to level the sustainability playing field across all the UNC campuses; called on larger system institutions such as UNC-Chapel Hill to help other system entities with this issue; called for an annual UNC system sustainability conference; and called for innovative funding options to advance sustainability within the University of North Carolina (pages 8-9).
- The outreach working group called on the UNC general administration to take leadership in the State through the energy efficiency of UNC buildings; and to create energy efficiency outreach programs for K-12 schools and for local policy makers (pages 9-11). (I'll note that, although not mentioned in the report, Carolina's Institute for the Environment seems an obvious candidate to spearhead the former initiative, while our School of Government seems an obvious candidate to spearhead the latter).
- The education working group asked if degree programs in energy and environment should be offered and, if so, at which UNC campuses; and also asked whether there may be joint-campus initiatives that should be created in this area of study (pages 11-13).
- The research working group raised the vision of establishing North Carolina as a major geographic center for research on energy. In setting this goal, it called for a complete inventory of energy and environment research programs at all the UNC campuses; and for advancement of multi-institutional energy and environment research efforts within the University of North Carolina. This working group also specifically asked that a summary of the *Energy and Environment in North Carolina* symposium report be created and forwarded to the President of the University of North Carolina (pages 13-15).

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These recommendations are sweeping, but I feel they are important for North Carolina. I take pride in conveying this report to you, and wish to recognize the leadership of our Institute for the Environment and Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience, and Technology in planning and carrying out this ambitious conference. I understand that the energy and environment charge laid down in the attached report will next be taken up by the Research Triangle Energy Consortium (a collaboration of RTI International, Duke, NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill) with their *RTEC Kenan Energy Symposium* in Research Triangle Park on November 14 and 15, 2007, and by the Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State with their *2008 Emerging Issues Forum*, which will focus on Energy and the Environment and which will be held on February 11 and 12, 2008.

Thank you for your attention to the enclosed report.

Sincerely,



James Moeser

JM:bl

Attachment

cc: Doug Crawford-Brown, Director, Institute for the Environment
Joe DeSimone, Director, Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience, and
Technology
Bernadette Gray-Little, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Tim Toben, Chair, Board of Visitors, Institute for the Environment
Tony Waldrop, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

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