INFORMATION ITEM: Oakland Avenue Parking Deck Addition

On November 6, 2003 the Board of Trustees authorized a self-liquidating project that would add capacity to the existing Oakland Avenue Parking Deck to increase the net number of parking spaces on campus by 500. The planned schedule called for the structure to be ready to occupy by August 2008.

In May 2006, a Campus Transportation Master Plan was completed by the firm Martin-Alexiou-Bryson. The study provided UNCG with recommendations that should guide the University in managing personal vehicular, pedestrian, mass transit and cycling access to campus through the year 2020. The authors of the Campus Transportation Master Plan recommended a number of initiatives that will make access to campus multi-modal as opposed to a one-dimensional parking inventory approach. An important element of the plan and one of their recommendations is to delay the construction of the Oakland Avenue Parking Deck Addition.

There are several benefits to following their recommendation by choosing to delay this project:

1. By doing so, we give ourselves the opportunity to promote and observe the level of success of the alternative modes of transportation recommended by the Master Planners, including the use of public transportation and the partnership with Greensboro Transit Authority for HEAT (Higher Education Area Transit).

2. By doing so, we also give ourselves the opportunity to observe the impact that our new 400 bed, 200 parking space residence hall will have on campus movement when it opens this fall. We can also observe the impact of non-UNCG student housing facilities that are coming online within walking distance of campus and along the transit routes, including the 600 bed facility under construction one block west of campus.

3. It allows time for the new Campus Transportation Master Plan to be integrated into the University Master Plan Update to see what impact it might have on the overall plan before committing to the major Oakland Addition project.

4. It allows us to postpone the 2007-08 parking rate increase (+ $20 per year) previously approved by the Board of Trustees on April 7, 2005.

For these reasons, the construction of the Oakland Deck Addition has been postponed for at least one year, starting construction no sooner than Fall 2007 and ready to occupy no sooner than August 2009. We will review and evaluate, each year, the need to reactivate the Oakland Deck Addition project. Although it has already been designed, the plans would need to be
reviewed for changes in code and resubmitted for approval by State Construction and Department of Insurance.

We feel that this approach is the most responsible in that it keeps all our options open and affords us the opportunity to adjust as we see the impact of implementing the recommendations of the Transportation Master Plan and the updated University Master Plan.

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Reade Taylor
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs