Niner Nation,

I am very pleased to share that the UNC Board of Governors voted today to confirm Dr. Sharon L. Gaber as the next chancellor of UNC Charlotte.

It has been my privilege to chair the chancellor search committee which evaluated an extensive pool of candidates to lead this great University. The committee worked diligently over the past eight months to solicit input, review applications and interview candidates. At the end of the process, the committee made its recommendation to the Board of Trustees which, in turn, approved and submitted the names of two finalists to UNC Interim President Bill Roper. We are grateful that Interim President Roper and the Board of Governors have selected Dr. Gaber to assume this leadership role.

After a comprehensive search process, we are confident Dr. Gaber is the right person at the right time to chart UNC Charlotte’s next chapter in the history of our institution.

As president of the University of Toledo in Ohio, Dr. Gaber is nationally recognized for her efforts to increase enrollment, improve graduation and retention rates, keep education affordable and make the campus a diverse, inclusive environment. Education Dive named her one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond.

A career educator with a background in city and regional planning, she became the first female president at the University of Toledo following six years as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Gaber also served as interim provost at Auburn, and as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Occidental College, a master’s degree from the University of Southern California, and her doctoral degree from Cornell University.

Dr. Gaber not only understands our mission, our opportunities and our challenges, but also she brings a keen perspective and innovative vision that will help guide us through these unprecedented times in our nation’s history and move UNC Charlotte forward as we solidify our position as a top-tier nationally-recognized university. She will become the University’s fifth chancellor and the second woman to lead the institution, following in the footsteps of University founder and educator Bonnie Cone. References spoke of Dr. Gaber’s compassionate leadership, collaborative and open communication style, and dedication to serving the community, which was certainly evident during my time with her. I encourage you to read more about her impressive background on the chancellor-elect website.

I also want to express my deep appreciation to Phil Dubois for leading UNC Charlotte during the past 15 years, including his continued leadership of the University through June before passing
the “pickaxe” to Dr. Gaber. My thanks to the search committee and the Board of Trustees for their hard work and dedication, and to the members of the University community who contributed invaluable feedback throughout the search process.

Dr. Gaber’s official start date is expected for later this summer and we look forward to updating you on those details soon. To ensure leadership continuity, Provost Joan Lorden will serve as interim chancellor beginning July 1 and until Dr. Gaber arrives on campus. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Gaber and giving her a warm welcome to Niner Nation.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson ’93
Chair, UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees and Chancellor Search Committee