

“It is absolutely true that I have liked and respected Mary Easley for years. I have said so numerous times—publicly, privately, in writing, and verbally. I also do not question that when she was hired by NC State in 2005, prior to my arrival at UNC, that she was considered to be an asset to the University. Furthermore, when the UNC Board of Governors and I reviewed the salary associated with her expanded duties in 2008, it was unanimously approved after significant adjustments were made. I have said this repeatedly and released publicly the information that supports the salary she was offered.

But as Mrs. Easley’s attorney said today, we are now at a time that is different from when Mary Easley was hired. And I do feel that it would be in the best interest of NC State for her to move on.”

Erskine Bowles
UNC President
May 21, 2009