

July 21, 2025

Dear Board of Governors Members:

I write to express deep skepticism and disappointment regarding UNC Asheville's proposal to lease more than 50 acres of university land to its endowment to develop a privately operated mixed-use stadium complex.

This project raises serious concerns about the appropriate use of public resources. The proposed commercial endeavor does not meaningfully advance the university's academic mission. While the proposal references some use of the stadium by UNCA Athletics, this justification is unconvincing. Generating income is not, in and of itself, a sufficient reason for a public university to transfer long-term control of taxpayer-owned land to private developers.

Furthermore, the proposed 99-year lease at a nominal \$1 rate to the endowment fund, followed by a sublease to private developers for commercial use, effectively diverts public land to serve a private purpose. This undermines public trust and raises potential legal and ethical issues under North Carolina's Umstead Act.

Universities should not operate as commercial landlords or entertainment venue sponsors. Their focus should remain on education, research, and public service. I urge the Board to carefully consider whether UNCA's plans will "enhance the institution's research, teaching, and service missions" as required by UNC System policy.

As always, thank you for your service to the students and citizens of North Carolina.

Respectfully,

Jenna A. Robinson

President