THE BUSSIAN LAW FIRM

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Harry L. Smith, Chairman UNC System Board of Trustees 912 Raleigh Road Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Chairman Smith:

As counsel for Carolina Journal (CJ), I am writing to request immediate inspection and copying of the "360 review," publicly referenced by ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton during a recent interview with state news media. Your release of the 360 review is necessary to eliminate suspicion that Chancellor Staton is in the process of being railroaded out of his position as ECU Chancellor to allow a less qualified, political appointee to take his job. At a minimum, the release of the 360 review is necessary to restore public confidence in the operation of the UNC System and should be released to the public in its entirety for that reason alone.

In the event you continue to decline to release the full 360 review to CJ, please redact the portions of the review you deem to be confidential and exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Law, and then produce the rest to CJ. At the same time, please identify the specific state statutory provisions you contend support your decision not to release the entire 360 review.

Finally, please bear in mind that the public's right to access the 360 review under North Carolina's Public Records Law is to be liberally granted, and all exemptions to the Law are to be read and interpreted narrowly, resolving any doubts in favor of public access.

Should you continue to decline to release the entire 360 review — or even a redacted version of the review — to CJ, please be assured CJ will take the legal action necessary to secure the review's release and will seek recovery from you and the UNC System of all the legal expense CJ is forced to incur to vindicate its right to know under North Carolina's Open Government Laws.

Please be governed accordingly.

Sincerely,

John A. Bussian

cc:

Thom Shanahan Josh Ellis