



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

**Aycock Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes
January 28, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erin Lawrimore, Chuck Bolton, Christine Flood, Todd Davis, Miriam Bradley, Mary Landers, Rod Wyatt, George Dimock, Hoyte Phifer, Constance, McKoy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Graham, Shannon Bennett, Michael Garrett

Also present were: Chancellor Brady, Bonita Brown and Anita Rigsbee

Chancellor Brady welcomed the committee members and asked that each member introduce themselves.

The Chancellor then gave a brief history about Governor Aycock, a Democrat and one-term governor who served the State of North Carolina from 1901 through 1905. He is often referred to as “the education governor” because of his support for secondary and public higher education, including UNCG.

However, he was a prominent figure in the white supremacy movement in the late 1800s to early 1900s until his untimely death in Alabama. Numerous facilities, neighborhoods and streets across the state carry his name, including Aycock Auditorium, Aycock Middle School, and Aycock Street in Greensboro.

Due to his involvement in this movement, the Chancellor cited examples of other institutions such as Duke, ECU and Chapel Hill that have either renamed university buildings or are considering renaming buildings that carry or have carried Governor Aycock’s name.

Chancellor Brady explained that although the UNCG administration had not received any inquires or petitions regarding the naming of Aycock Auditorium she believed that the importance of the issue demanded a thorough analysis.

A preliminary analysis was conducted in the fall of 2014 with the UNCG Board of Trustees and it was agreed that a committee should be established to collect historical information regarding the naming in order to present a report to the BOT.

The Chancellor established a 12 member Ad Hoc Committee on Aycock before the holiday break to include faculty, staff, student and alumni representatives, including a representative of the Faculty Senate.

Chancellor Brady has charged the committee with:

- Exploring the historical connection between Charles B. Aycock and UNCG
- Monitoring the progress of other campuses considering renaming (i.e. ECU, UNC-CH)
- Researching the process followed by institutions that have faced similar controversies
- Making recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding options with a target deadline of April 17 in order to present to the BOT in May

The Chancellor suggested that the committee use various ways to gather information in their research such as:

- Engaging other campuses
- Inviting others to meet with the committee, including Alumni and Trey Aycock, a descendent of Charles Aycock

- Creating a website containing links to documents pertaining to their findings
- Working with Joseph Graham to bring this to the attention of the SGA

The Committee recommended that Chuck Bolton and Rod Wyatt act as Co-Chairs. In addition a History Subcommittee was formed that includes Chuck Bolton, Rod Wyatt, Christine Flood and Erin Lawrimore. Miriam Bradley volunteered to act as the liaison for University Relations.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 12 at 2:00. The committee will then decide on future meeting dates and locations. They will also share information from their first History Subcommittee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anita Rigsbee
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor