

MINUTES

**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
The Board of Trustees
Subcommittee on Aycock Auditorium Naming
September 24, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Hayes (Chair), Omar Ali, Chuck Bolton, Randall Kaplan, Rod Wyatt

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Frances Bullock, Michelle Gethers-Clark, David Sprinkle

Also present were: Julia Jackson Newsom, Alan Boyette, Todd Davis, Shannon Bennett, Jim Thornton, Kathy Fair and other members of faculty, staff and the general public.

Special guests of the committee were Dr. Watson Jennison, Dr. Jeffrey Crow and Dr. James Leloudis

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. He reviewed the charge of the committee.

The minutes of the July 23, 2015 meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION:

Hayes introduced the four expert panelists, Drs. Bolton, Crow, Jennison and Leloudis, who were invited to share their knowledge and research on Charles B. Aycock and the history, politics and social structure of his time. Each spoke for 5 – 10 minutes and answered questions of the committee.

The panelists offered the following questions for the committee to consider as it deliberates:

1. If we sanitize history, how can we tell the whole story? Do we erase points of history that we now find repugnant?
2. Can we discuss violent events, like the Wilmington Race Riots, without acknowledging the white supremacy movement and its proponents?
3. Are building names the same as monuments? Is renaming a building the same as removing a monument, and do either or both erase the past?

Hayes advised the committee of the decisions that other North Carolina campuses have recently made regarding building name changes. In every case to date, regardless of whether the name has been retained or removed, the institutions are using the opportunity to curate the facility and inform on the history of the building and its honorific heritage.

The committee asked the experts to reflect on the impact that retaining the name has on our diverse campus community, opposed to the view of retaining the name to protect the history.

Leloudis remarked on the decision at UNC Chapel Hill and the Saunders Building. The trustees voted to remove the name, and in addition charged a task force to develop sustainable scholarly ways to curate the history of race at the university, not just for the present community, but also for future generations.

The committee asked if there were precedents elsewhere of institutions utilizing a hyphenated combination of the original honoree with a person's name who reflects the diversity of the current campus community. Bolton replied that there are examples of this. The challenge would be to determine the person that shares the building name, and then which name goes first.

There is a distinction about the history of the naming at UNCG, as it was dedicated in honor of Aycock in 1928, not, for example, during the 1960's, as was the case of the Aycock building at ECU. The 1928 letter from the Alumnae Association, recommending to the UNCG Board of Trustees that the new auditorium be named for Aycock, will be distributed to the committee. In addition, unlike other campuses, the Aycock Auditorium holds a pivotal place as a public space for not just the university, but for the entire Greensboro community.

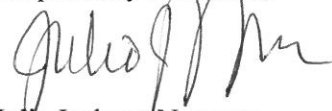
Hayes asked the committee to keep in mind the criteria for name revocation as contained in the UNCG policy, Naming University Facilities and Units. The meeting agreed that the criteria will be an excellent reference throughout the process.

Todd Davis had provided a summary of the Historic Artifact Management and Patriotism Act of 2015. The UNC attorneys at this point view the Act as not referring to changing the existing names of buildings, but it has not yet been tested. In the event UNCG chooses to install a new plaque, display, exhibit, memorial, or marker to further explain the legacy of Governor Aycock, the Act will apply and installations would have to be approved by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

The committee when it meets next will discuss and formulate its recommendation to the full board. The planning of an educational installation or program, if approved, will be managed by a separate group.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Jackson-Newsom
Assistant Secretary to the Board, Interim