

MINUTES

**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
The Board of Trustees
Subcommittee on Aycock Auditorium Naming
July 23, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Hayes (Chair), Frances Bullock, Randall Kaplan, Susan Safran

MEMBER NOT PRESENT: David Sprinkle

Also present were: Acting Chancellor & Provost Dana Dunn, Vice Chancellor & Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonita Brown, Vice Chancellor, Interim, Jim Thornton, Kathy Fair and a member of the public.

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

DISCUSSION:

Hayes began a discussion about the composition of the subcommittee. Since currently all members are also trustees, Hayes asked the trustees to consider others to be invited to serve. There was discussion around possible representatives from alumni, faculty, staff, students and members of the community. The committee agreed that this body should represent diversity and would ideally be around 12 members. When needed, experts can be invited to speak at meetings to provide further information and insight. Before the next meeting, Hayes will present a core membership proposal to the current members, and then contact the proposed members for their availability.

Hayes reminded the meeting that the charge from the Board of Trustees was to carry out an analysis of the Aycock Ad Hoc Committee Report presented at the May 6, 2015 meeting, seek new information and insight, report the progress of the subcommittee to the Board, and make final recommendations to the Board.

In reviewing the Ad Hoc Committee report, Hayes noted that although the surveyed opinion of retaining or removing the Aycock name was divided almost 50/50, there was an overwhelming majority who recommended using the issue for an educational opportunity. He asked Dunn to update how an educational piece might be developed.

Dunn mentioned that East Carolina University is about one year further ahead of us in their decisions about renaming their Aycock building and educational strategies, and that we can be in consultation with them as we move forward.

Dunn consulted with Dr. Chuck Bolton, Co-chair of the Ad Hoc committee and History faculty, and Dr. Benjamin Filene, Faculty Head of the Public History and Museums Program. Filene indicated that if the educational piece is adopted by the Board, his program and students could be involved.

One suggestion from Filene was a physical display or art piece tied to a mobile app that would be part of a campus tour that would offer a rich campus history. The history is very complex and in order to present a balanced experience, more than just a few lines of displayed visual text is needed. A mobile app would appeal to current and prospective students and families, and would also allow us to showcase other named buildings on campus that evoke the sense of gender equality and ethnic diversity that UNCG stands for.

Archivists in the Library will be able to undertake valuable research throughout the process. Some operating costs would be incurred, but the amounts should be within university resource availability. The cost of a commissioned piece of art would vary depending on the Board's preference for high or low profile.

Other university boards around the country have undertaken similar naming revocation decisions: in particular Brown, Duke, ECU and UNC-Chapel Hill. The committee asked that research be done by the university to establish what these institutions did or are doing and also what speakers, workshops, symposiums, panels, experts, etc. can be brought to campus for the educational piece. Dunn suggested that the Freshman First Year Read could also be set to reflect the topic.

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.

The committee asked to have more research provided about Aycock's personal connection to UNCG. Researchers could be invited as a panel to present the historical and social context of the time. In addition, experts are available who can speak to the effect of removing an historical name from a building.

Hayes mentioned that the Bill currently on the NC Senate floor, if passed, may influence the work of this committee. It states that "...a monument, memorial or work of art can not be removed, relocated or altered in any way without the permission of the North Carolina Historical Commission." It is unclear if this would include buildings.

The committee does not want to rush the opportunity to hear from experts and constituents, therefore the earlier timeline for a December recommendation to the Board may be adjusted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonita J. Brown
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees