UNC Board of Trustees
5/28/15
Saunders Hall and UNC History: a Comprehensive Solution
The Saunders Hall Issue

- May 2014 – Students and faculty presented a petition to the University Affairs Committee to remove Saunders’s name from Saunders Hall
- May 2014 to March 2015
  - Conducted 200+ meetings and conversations with UNC stakeholders
  - Consulted experts outside of UNC
  - When meeting with Trustees, the students asked us to also “contextualize” Silent Sam and create a curriculum to educate UNC students about the racial history of the University
- March to May 2015
  - University Affairs Committee heard from multiple speakers representing students, faculty and alumni
  - Gathered comments on-line from >750 interested parties
  - Reviewed proposals from a wide variety of stakeholders
Objectives/Strategy

- **Objectives**
  - Be responsive to the concerns of our students, faculty and alumni
  - Teach students and ALL interested parties about UNC’s past, both good and bad
  - Prepare our students to be effective in an increasingly diverse world

- **Strategy**
  - Create a comprehensive solution consistent with our mission and befitting UNC’s legacy as a public institution
Guiding Principles for Solutions

- Grounded in evidence and research
- Focused on teaching and learning
- Be careful not to impose today's social norms on the past
- Don’t hide the unpleasant aspects of our history
- Must be accurate, complete, and accessible
- Must be practical and sustainable for future generations
- Must include clear responsibility for execution
Solutions

- Curating our historic buildings, monuments, memorials and landscapes
- Teaching our community about UNC-CH history
- Re-naming of Saunders Hall and naming of other historic buildings, monuments, memorials and landscapes
Resolution #1
Solutions

- Curating our historic buildings, monuments, memorials and landscapes
- Teaching our community about UNC-CH history
- Re-naming of Saunders Hall and naming of other historic buildings, monuments, memorials and landscapes
Saunders Hall

- William L. Saunders made significant contributions to UNC and the State of North Carolina
  - Served as Secretary of State 1879-1891
  - Compiled and edited the Colonial Records of North Carolina
  - Served as a Trustee of the University 1874-1891
  - Served as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees 1878-1891
Saunders Hall

- The University erred in recognizing Mr. Saunders leadership in the KKK as a qualification for the honor of a building named for him.
Resolution #2
The UNC Charter

“WHEREAS in all well-regulated governments it is the indispensable duty of every Legislature to consult the happiness of a rising generation, and endeavor to fit them for an honorable discharge of the social duties of life, by paying the strictest attention to their education...”
Resolution #3