



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



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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.

WILLIAM LAURENCE SAUNDERS, LLB; LLD.
Born 1835 - Died 1891
Graduated from the University of North Carolina, 1854.
Lawyer - Soldier - Historian - Statesman
Colonel of the 40th North Carolina Regiment, C.S.A.
Head of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina.
Editor of the Wilmington Journal.
Editor of the Raleigh Observer.
Secretary of State of North Carolina 1879-1891.
Trustee of the University of North Carolina, 1874-1891.
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the University of North
Carolina, 1878-1891.
Treasurer of the University of North Carolina, 1883-1891.
Compiler and Editor of the Colonial Records of North Carolina.
An ardent friend of the University and one of the
master minds of North Carolina.



Resolution #2



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL