

August 28, 2018

We would specifically like to thank the Board of Governors, its leadership, and the President of the University System for the confidence they have placed in us today for the trustees and our Chancellor to come up with a lasting long term solution to the issue of the Confederate monument.

Our country, state and University continue to grapple with the emotional issue of Confederate monuments. Like our country and state, our University community is diverse with many and varied deeply-held convictions on how to best deal with this challenge. As a result, and long before the events of recent days, the Board of Trustees adopted and has been pursuing a process for the curation and education of campus monuments and markers. This process started in 2015 with the renaming and contextualization of Carolina Hall.

The following fundamental principles continue to guide our Board in addressing this challenge:

1. Our University will respect and enforce the law and University policies;
2. Our University will do all it can to ensure a safe campus;
3. Our University will honor our values as expressed in the Blue Print for Next to develop citizen-leaders and informed public debate. Civil discourse is critical to this leading principle; and
4. Our University will educate and curate our monuments and our history with integrity.

With these guiding principles foremost in our mind, our Board and our Chancellor and her Administration seek to lead our University forward as follows.

The Board does not condone the lawless acts that took place on the evening of August 20, 2018. The incident jeopardized the safety and well-being of students and local citizens. Our Board supports all efforts to ensure that individuals are held accountable. Injury to persons or property is inconsistent with principles of civil disobedience and this Board is committed to upholding the law and following University policies.

The Board supports our Chancellor's stated highest priority for the safety of our students and the University community. This is a challenge during volatile times when tensions are high, and we urge our students' and University community's support as we keep safety at the forefront. The Board will continue to lead efforts to curate and educate in connection with our campus monuments and markers. This will include ongoing efforts to provide historical context for existing monuments and markers in McCorkle Place.

To be true to our guiding principles of safety, education/curation and civil discourse, the Board, our Chancellor and her Administration will continue to work on an appropriate plan for the Confederate monument that will be discussed with the Board of Governors and other officials in hopes of developing a consensus as soon as possible.

Our Board supports our Chancellor's efforts and is committed to moving forward deliberately and thoughtfully to accomplish these objectives.