

Statement for Lowry Caudill 2/2/15

“Like most American universities founded in the early years of our nation, Carolina has a rich and complex history and has memorialized contributors to the state and University by placing their names on buildings, grounds, classrooms, monuments and in many other ways. Those honored were a reflection of leaders during their times. With the benefit of time and reflection, we realize that some of those previously honored present concerns today. Our challenge is to be responsive to the concerns expressed by our students, faculty and alumni without imposing today’s social norms on the past and ignoring our history, either good or bad.

This complex issue extends well beyond Saunders Hall, and our board takes this responsibility very seriously. We have chosen to find a comprehensive solution reflecting the larger context of how we should acknowledge more fully the people for whom many historic buildings and monuments are named. This is not easy and takes time to fully reconcile our past with what we believe is in our best interests going forward.

At our May 2014 board meeting, we heard our students concerns, we explained our renaming policy and we asked board members to gather information. After spending the summer and fall researching, gathering facts and listening to opinions, we asked board members at our January meeting to help the board design a process for moving forward. We are continuing to gather input and will provide an update on our progress and next steps at our March meeting.”