January 28, 2015

Mr. Robert G. Brinkley
Chair, East Carolina Board of Trustees
2225 Sharon Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211

Chairman Brinkley and BOT Members:

Re-introducing myself, I am Sheridan Barnes, ECU ’86, current president of the ECU Black Alumni Chapter. I attended the BOT meeting in December and the meeting last night at the EC Heart Institute. Thank you for providing a forum where those concerned could express their perspectives about removing the Aycock name.

While this is not a hard-lined fiscal issue, it is one that has garnered variations of emotions, historical relevance and discomfort where due diligence and forward thought are required to find an a solution. As a resident of Johnston County, where once stood a sign welcoming people to KKK county, I have experienced the impacts of racial tension. However, the renaming of Aycock residence hall as a racial issue, but one of inclusion where recognizing the multicultural landscape and vision of East Carolina align with one another. Words that resonate and supported by the Black Alumni Chapter are those spoken by Chancellor Ballard in December when he said, "keeping the Aycock name was not in the best interest of East Carolina".

There are no imploded views or negative opinions about Governor Aycock or his recognition in the education sector. However, his supremacist and separatist views as "a man of his time" does not support the present or future.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation, East Carolina University:

- Uses innovative learning strategies and delivery methods to maximize access;
- Prepares students with the knowledge, skills and values to succeed in a global, multicultural society;
- Develops tomorrow’s leaders to serve and inspire positive change;
- Discovers new knowledge and innovations to support a thriving future for eastern North Carolina and beyond;
- Transforms health care, promotes wellness, and reduces health disparities; and
- Improves quality of life through cultural enrichment, academics, the arts, and athletics.

We accomplish our mission through education, research, creative activities, and service while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in July, 2013
Approved by the Board of Governors in February 2014
Notwithstanding, on behalf of the Black Alumni Chapter and support of Chancellor Ballard’s recommendation, we wish to have on record our support of the Aycock name removed from the residence hall.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sheridan Barnes
President, Black Alumni Chapter