SENATE RESOLUTION 24

RESOLUTION
To support the renaming of Charles B. Aycock Residence Hall.

Primary Sponsor: Senator Lockhart
Cosponsor(s): Senators Mazariegos, Barber, Sepulveda, and Joseph
First Reading: 01/12/2015
Referred to: University Affairs
Second Reading: 01/26/2015

Resolved,

SECTION 1.

WHEREAS, Governor Charles B. Aycock was a leading supporter of an amendment that disenfranchised African Americans in the state of North Carolina for over 60 years, the following is a quote from Governor Aycock where he lays out his position on the aforementioned amendment:

"This amendment was drawn with great skill. It was drawn after long thought, and with full knowledge of the end to be attained. **It was drawn with the deliberate purpose of depriving the negro of the right to vote, and of allowing every white man to retain that right. And I tell you now and here, did I believe that it would cause the oppression of a single white man, or deprive one white man, however ignorant or humble, of his suffrage, I would not support it.** On the contrary its passage will mean peace to the land, it will mean an end to an era of crime and lawlessness, security to property and purity of politics. There will be no more dead negroes on the streets of Wilmington, no more rule of the incompetent and corrupt."\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, Governor Aycock held racist and white supremacist views, an example of those views are found in the following quote from Governor Aycock:

"I do not believe the Fusionists intended to give us bad government; they simply could not help it. **I assert that such a condition with them is**

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\(^1\) *The Life and Speeches of Charles Brantley Aycock*, p. 81.
inevitable because the party has not behind it virtue and intelligence, but it has the evil influence of 120,000 negro voters. No government can be better or wiser than the average of the virtue and intelligence of the party that governs.”

WHEREAS, Governor Charles B. Aycock held very strong white supremacist views, an example of his views are exemplified by the following quote from Governor Aycock:

"These are some of the reasons for my being proud of North Carolina. I am proud of my State, moreover, because there we have solved the negro problem which recently seems to have given you some trouble. We have taken him out of politics and have thereby [secured] good government under any party and laid foundations for the future development of both races. We have secured peace, and rendered prosperity a certainty."

"I am inclined to give to you our solution of this problem. It is, first, as far as possible under the Fifteenth Amendment to disfranchise him; after that let him alone, quit writing about him; quit talking about him, quit making him 'the white man's burden,' let him 'tote his own skillet'; quit coddling him, let him learn that no man, no race, ever got anything worth the having that he did not himself earn; that character is the outcome of sacrifice and worth is the result of toil; that whatever his future may be, the present has in it for him nothing that is not the product of industry, thrift, obedience to law, and uprightness; that he can- not, by resolution of council or league, accomplish anything; that he can do much by work; that violence may gratify his passions but it cannot accomplish his ambitions; that he may eat rarely of the cooking of equality, but he will always find when he does that 'there is death in the pot.' Let the negro learn once for all that there is unending separation of the races, that the two peoples may develop side by side to the fullest but that they cannot intermingle; let the white man determine that no man shall by act or thought or speech cross this line, and the race problem will be at an end.”

WHEREAS, despite Governor Aycock’s title of “The Education Governor”, he was not a supporter of equal education for all; his position is outlined in the following quote from Governor Aycock:

“The Amendment drove many of them out of the State. An effort to reduce their public schools would send thousands more of them away from us. In this hour, when our industrial development demands more labor and not less, it becomes of the utmost importance that we shall make no mistake in dealing with that race which does a very large part of the work, of actual

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2 The Life and Speeches of Charles Brantley Aycock, p. 82.
3 The Life and Speeches of Charles Brantley Aycock, p. 161.
WHEREAS, views held by Charles Brantley Aycock are incompatible with the standards of East Carolina University; and

WHEREAS, while the views held by Governor Aycock were not uncommon at the time, he used fear and scare tactics to take advantage of those beliefs not only to ensure the disenfranchisement of African Americans, but also to be elected Governor; and

WHEREAS, the East Carolina University Board of Trustees will be holding a vote to determine whether or not Charles B. Aycock’s name will be removed from the residence hall during the February 19-20 meeting which is being held at the ECU Heart Institute; therefore, now be it

RESOLVED, that the East Carolina University Student Government Association fully supports the renaming of Charles B. Aycock Residence Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that East Carolina University should issue a statement to inform all students why the name is changed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution should be sent to the Chair of the ECU Board of Trustees, The Chancellor, The Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, The East Carolinian, and The Daily Reflector.

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4 *The Life and Speeches of Charles Brantley Aycock*, p. 161
SECTION 2. DATE EFFECTIVE.

This Resolution shall be effective upon its signing by the Student Body President.