



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Post Office Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
910 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
hsmith@bog.northcarolina.edu

Statement by UNC BOG Chair Harry Smith

Based on an overwhelming number of requests from and outreach by ECU faculty, staff, and alumni, I have reconsidered my exit from ECU. I am a proud member of Pirate Nation, and I want to be as helpful to the institution wherever and whenever possible.

It has been an unfortunate past few months for ECU—where a small few have utilized a false narrative to create division among those who most want to help the University thrive. This isn't my approach. Governance and oversight can be challenging—you must ask tough questions and sometimes pushing back and saying “no” is the right course. ECU needs us to be able to do that in a positive atmosphere without threats and intimidation.

Differing views and opinions are healthy for any organization, and it is my hope that all those involved with moving ECU forward can together work to ensure all voices are heard and great decisions are made.

ECU is an incredible institution and a very special place for me and so many. It has been changing lives since its founding, and I'm looking forward to continuing that tradition in a healthy manner.

Go Pirates!