

William Octavius McCoy
Doctor of Laws

Bill McCoy is a partner at Franklin Street Partners, a private investment management firm and trust. From July 1999 to October 2000, he served as interim chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He had previously served as acting chancellor in April and May 1999 while Chancellor Hooker was on medical leave. From 1995 to 1999 McCoy was vice president for finance of The University of North Carolina.

After graduating from Carolina, McCoy served in the United States Marine Corps. He trained at Quantico and Pensacola before being stationed at Camp Lejeune as a helicopter pilot. His military career aboard several aircraft carriers took him to places such as Lebanon, Venezuela, and Cuba.

Upon completing his military service, McCoy began a highly successful business career with Southern Bell, first in Charlotte and later in Atlanta. He progressed through a variety of executive positions culminating in service as vice chair of BellSouth Corporation (1983-94) and president of BellSouth Enterprises, Inc. He retired from business in 1994, only to begin, in 1995, a new and also highly successful career in higher education.

As interim chancellor at Chapel Hill, Bill McCoy rapidly won the respect and confidence of students, faculty, staff, and trustees. He went about his work not as a caretaker but as an active, engaged chief executive. His announced intention was to act each day as if his assignment were permanent, not temporary. On his first day in office, he faced a student demonstration arising from discontent with a firm that supplied athletic shoes and uniforms for Carolina's student athletes. In typical fashion, he listened, consulted, and made a careful decision that settled the matter amicably. Later, he won the praise and grateful thanks of the trustees and faculty by effectively addressing a \$10 million budget shortfall and, in that process, insuring future fiscal integrity by instituting much-needed budgetary reform. In a time of great stress, he brought to the University stability and calm through his quiet demeanor, financial skill, and collaborative management style.

McCoy is a member of several corporate boards. While in Atlanta, he was extensively involved in that city's community affairs as chair of the Southern Center for International Studies, as a trustee of the Woodruff Arts Center and Emory University's Egleston Children's Hospital, and as a member of the boards of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. At Carolina he has served as chair of the Bicentennial Campaign's National Development Council, the Kenan-Flagler Business School Board of Visitors, the Board of Directors of the UNC Health Care System, and the Carolina First Campaign Steering Committee. McCoy is a recipient of the William Richard Davie Award (1995), the General Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Medal (2000), and the Kenan-Flagler Business School Leadership Award (2000), and has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Golden Fleece.