

Constituent Universities

Appalachian
State University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School

North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Employer

**Margaret Spellings
President Elect**

Phone: 919-962-9000

Email: president-elect@northcarolina.edu

February 29, 2016

The Faculty Council
Attention: Dr. Bruce Cairns
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
200-204 Carr Building
230 E. Cameron Avenue
CB #9170
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-9170

Dear Faculty Council Members:

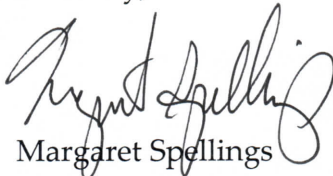
We are writing to echo our support for the principles articulated in your February 19th resolution and its intent to assure support for LGBTQ academic initiatives in a fully equitable and inclusive manner. Our institutions thrive because of our commitment to academic freedom and the pursuit of free, unfettered inquiry, and we have a responsibility to provide students with diverse perspectives, academic programs, and campus opportunities that will inform their own values and perspectives as they prepare to lead in our interconnected, global society. Equal access and opportunity to a university education are fundamental values of the University of North Carolina, and we are committed to ensuring that we recognize, respect, and serve *all* students, faculty, and staff of this University.

As you may remember, last year the Board of Governors expanded the UNC system's statement on Equality of Opportunity in the University to include sexual orientation and gender identity; this is also mirrored in UNC-Chapel Hill's policy. During my service as president, we will partner with you and others to continue to uphold and enhance our commitment to equal access, diversity, inclusion, and opportunity for all. We appreciate UNC-Chapel Hill's ongoing initiatives to appropriately create and maintain educational and work environments that are inclusive and welcoming to all, and encourage and support these efforts at our constituent institutions.

As part of your resolution, you expressed interest in offering additional LGBTQ academic initiatives—this is initially an institutional decision for UNC-Chapel Hill. For that reason, we encourage you to continue your work through the Faculty Council and with Provost Jim Dean and Chancellor Carol Folt to determine whether there is sufficient academic interest in developing more formal LGBTQ initiatives at UNC-Chapel Hill and then whether there are available financial resources.

We appreciate, support, and share your strong commitment to equal opportunity. Together, we must make sure that our campuses are welcoming and safe places for students and faculty of all races, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to live and learn and work alongside one another. We look forward to meeting many of you soon and, as mentioned above, to working with you, UNC-Chapel Hill, and other constituent institutions as partners on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spellings
President-elect
University of North Carolina



Junius Gonzales
Interim President
University of North Carolina

cc: W. Louis Bissette, Jr., Chair, UNC Board of Governors
Carol L. Folt, Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
James W. Dean, Jr., Provost, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill