**Resolution Regarding the Forced Resignation of UNC President Tom Ross**

**Approved by the Faculty of Western Carolina University on (date)**

**Whereas**:

The University of North Carolina (UNC) faculty, staff, students, and administration have a long and productive history of working together to better our students, the UNC system, and the state; and

**Whereas**:

The UNC system and the state of North Carolina have benefited from Tom Ross’ extraordinary leadership during a difficult time in which he handled a number of challenges and maintained the confidence and trust of the faculty; and

**Whereas**:

SACS accreditation requires shared governance; and

**Whereas**:

The Board of Governors did not consider the voice of faculty in their recent decision to force President Ross’ resignation; and

**Whereas**:

The Board of Governors has provided no compelling reason for the forced resignation of President Ross; and

**Whereas**:

The reaction from faculty at Western Carolina University and throughout the state to President Ross’ forced resignation has been overwhelmingly negative; and

**Whereas**:

The UNC system will maintain its reputation as the preeminent system of higher education in America if Tom Ross is retained as President of the UNC system; and

**Whereas**:

Retaining Tom Ross as President of the University of North Carolina would restore faculty faith in the wisdom and decision-making of the Board of Governors and provide a path forward for an open and productive working relationship between the Board and the faculty;

**Therefore Be It Resolved:**

That we, the faculty of Western Carolina University, request that the Board of Governors reconsider their recent decision, cease any movement towards a search for a new President, and remove the requirement that President Ross retire at the beginning of 2016.