Members of the Board of Governors,

Recently, two members of the East Carolina University Board of Trustees met with a student in an attempt to get the student to run for the position of Student Body President. In the conversation, which the student recorded, Trustees Phil Lewis and Robert Moore offered support of the student’s campaign, financial and otherwise, and revealed that they voted in favor of an increase to the ECU athletics fee to avoid giving the current Student Body President a “win.”

These actions are deeply concerning. Members of the Board of Trustees are given the responsibility to adhere to high ethical standards and to support their institutions by discharging their duties with care, prudence, and diligence (UNC System Policy 200.7). When Phil Lewis and Robert Moore revealed that they voted in favor of an athletics fee increase to spite the current Student Body President, they showed without question that they were failing to discharge their duties in an appropriate manner. Their actions show a malicious and intentional violation of the trust placed in them by the people of the State of North Carolina and by the members of the East Carolina University community.

We, the students elected to represent the interests of the student body of the University of North Carolina System, believe these actions are reprehensible. Students deserve to have individuals focused on student success and interested in acting in the best interests of the University serving in positions of leadership.

Our systems of university governance can only operate if they have the trust of all constituents: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. Without this trust, our Boards cannot discharge their duties in earnest. It is clear from the response of faculty, staff, and student leadership at East Carolina University that Phil Lewis and Robert Moore have violated the trust that has been placed in them.
In support of the deep-held reverence for shared governance and respect for student leadership, we demand that Phil Lewis and Robert Moore be removed from their positions as Trustees of East Carolina University.

Signed,

Mr. Adam Schmidt  UNC ASG President  
Mr. Raekwon Davis  UNC ASG Senior Vice President  
Mr. Colin Johnson  East Carolina University Student Body President  
Mr. William Gibson  Winston-Salem State University Student Body President  
Ms. Ashton Martin  UNC-Chapel Hill Student Body President  
Mr. Chandler Crean  UNC-Charlotte University Student Body President  
Ms. Allison Gilmore  NC A&T State University Student Body President  
Mr. Chastan Swain  UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate and Professional Student Federation President  
Ms. Emma Carter  NC State University Student Body President  
Mr. Emmanuel Butts  Elizabeth City State University Student Body President  
Ms. Grace Dai  NC School of Science and Mathematics Student Body President  
Mr. David Rhode  Western Carolina University Student Body President  
Ms. Hunter Martin  UNC-Greensboro Student Body President  
Mr. Isaiah Green  UNC-Asheville Student Body President  
Ms. Kiante Bennett  Fayetteville State University Student Body President  
Ms. Maura Wetzel  UNC School of the Arts Student Body President  
Mr. Nick Pianovich  UNC-Wilmington Student Body President  
Mr. Thomas Crowe-Allbritton  UNC-Pembroke Student Body President