



**RESOLUTION HONORING
DR. WILLIAM L. ROPER
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, DR. WILLIAM L. "BILL" ROPER has served since January 1, 2019, as the Interim President of the University of North Carolina, the first public university in America to open its doors to students; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as interim president he served the University and the people of North Carolina in the positions of dean and tenured faculty member of the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill from 1997 to 2004, and as the CEO of UNC Health Care, the dean of the UNC School of Medicine, and the vice chancellor of Medical Affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill from 2004 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, his selfless commitment to public service and the people of North Carolina led him to voluntarily delay his well-earned retirement and graciously accept the position of interim president of the UNC System beginning January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, he has executed his duties as interim president with the same leadership, integrity, fairness, and commitment that the Board of Governors and the citizens of North Carolina would expect of a permanent president of the University; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, he has maintained a steady, principled, and cohesive approach to leadership, which has fostered a productive spirit of collaboration and teamwork throughout the UNC System; and

WHEREAS, he has courageously and confidently led the University through the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, an event that has caused unprecedented upheaval and disruption to the operation of the University and the lives of its students, parents, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the state's shutdown in response to this crisis, he quickly mobilized University leadership and oversaw efforts to move nearly 15,000 full-time faculty and more than 30,000 staff members online, ensuring the health and safety of nearly 240,000 students and the successful delivery of more than 50,000 classes; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the statewide COVID-19 task force at the request of Governor Cooper, and, in doing so, has exemplified how University expertise, research, service, and leadership benefits all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, he has advanced the UNC System's five-year Strategic Plan goals, leading to record enrollments, record numbers of students graduating within five years, increased numbers of students and graduates from low income and rural backgrounds in an era when national trends show a decline in four-year college enrollment by low-income students, an increase in the number of critical workforce degrees awarded that surpasses annual performance targets, and significant growth in UNC System research capacity; and

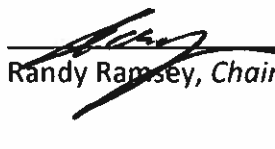
WHEREAS, he has overseen four successful chancellor appointments, ensuring the continuity of excellence at UNC Charlotte, UNC School of the Arts, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Western Carolina University; and

WHEREAS, he has been a tireless advocate for students, faculty, and staff at schools large and small all across the state, helping highlight the enduring value of a public college education and the unparalleled benefits the UNC System brings to North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, he will conclude his service as interim president on July 31, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina expresses its gratitude and deepest appreciation to DR. WILLIAM L. ROPER for his extraordinary and exceptional contributions to the University, the State of North Carolina, and nation.

This the 23rd day of July 2020.



Randy Ramsey, Chair



Pearl Burris-Floyd, Secretary