

September 11, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference and PBS North Carolina Livestream
UNC System Office
223 S. West Street, Board Room
Raleigh, North Carolina

AGENDA

OPEN SESSION

- A-1. Report on the Implementation of Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual,
Equality Within the University of North Carolina Andrew Tripp
- A-2. Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM

- A-1. Report on the Implementation of Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual,
Equality Within the University of North Carolina..... Andrew Tripp

Situation: UNC System institutions submitted certifications and reports on the implementation of Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Equality Within the UNC System*, to the UNC System Office on September 1, 2024.

Background: On May 23, 2024, the Board of Governors repealed and replaced Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual to reaffirm the University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equality of opportunity, institutional neutrality, academic freedom, and student success. Implementation of policy will require changes in practices across the University — some of which developed and grew as constituent institutions implemented the original version of Section 300.8.5 of the UNC Policy Manual.

The operative language of the policy directs campus administrations to abstain from the political and social fray. By committing to neutrality, the University's weighty voice avoids chilling speech and allows constructive discourse to thrive. Institutional neutrality is in fact principled neutrality operating in service to academic freedom and the University's core mission.

Assessment: On June 28, 2024, the UNC System Office provided guidance to the constituent institutions on how to certify and report reaffirmed commitment to principled neutrality. A detailed presentation of institutional certifications and reports will be discussed. Presentation materials will be available in hard copy the day of and loaded into BoardEffect at the conclusion of the meeting.

Action: This item is for discussion only.