

**PROPOSED**

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**RESOLUTION ON THE REAFFIRMATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY**

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina System and its constituent universities are “dedicated to the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding” and each recognizes that “academic freedom is essential to the achievement of these purposes;” and

WHEREAS, academic freedom, free speech and free expression are fundamental to the mission and purposes of NC State University; and

WHEREAS, free thought, expression, inquiry and dialogue continue to be critical to achieving the university’s mission in disseminating knowledge while promoting civil and respectful discourse and the Board of Trustees believes it should reaffirm these values, and in turn expects faculty, staff, and students to promote a positive culture of academic excellence in alignment with those values; and

WHEREAS, NC State supports, encourages and upholds the freedom of inquiry for students, faculty and staff, to the end that they may pursue their goals responsibly through teaching, learning, research, discussion and publication without restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that, as articulated in the University of Chicago Kalven Committee Report on the University’s Role in Political and Social Action (the “Kalven Report”), “neutrality as an institution has its complement in the fullest freedom for its faculty and students as individuals to participate in political action and social protest,” and reinforces that university neutrality provides “a forum for the most searching and candid discussion of public issues”, but that in extraordinary circumstances, NC State also has a duty to speak to defend the University’s mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees also recognizes its obligations under federal law, North Carolina state Law, UNC Board of Governors Policy, and NC State Policies, Regulations and Rules;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Board of Trustees of North Carolina State University reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression, and to institutional neutrality on the political and social issues of the day, as embodied in, and in compliance with, federal and state laws, University of North Carolina and NC State University Policies.

Adopted this \_\_\_th day of April, 2024.