

The UNC System

in Historical Perspective

William A. Link

University of Florida

UNC

- Chartered 1789; first meeting of trustees late 1789
- University opened Jan 15, 1795
- February 12, 1795: Hinton James became first student to enroll
- 1st year: 41 students, 3 faculty members
- 1798: first graduating class

UNC enrollments

- 230 students in 1850 increased to 456 in 1858.
- From 1850 to 1860, 3,480 students matriculated, and 571 graduated.
- By the end of the decade over one-third of the student body came from states other than North Carolina.

**FACULTY
1795 - 1992**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>
1795	3	1895	18
1800	4	1900	20
1805	2	1905	49
1810	3	1910	57
1815	4	1915	57
1820	8	1920	70
1825	10	1925	169
1830	8	1930	212
1835	7	1935	264
1840	7	1940	312
1845	8	1945	414
1850	7	1950	399
1855	11	1955	570
1860	11	1960	783
1865	8	1965	1149
1870	0	1970	1469
1875	7	1975	1745
1880	13	1980	1891
1885	19	1985	1911
1890	14	1990	2180
		1992	2249

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
1795-1993**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENT GROWTH</u>
1795	41	-----
1805	57	39.02%
1815	83	45.61%
1825	122	46.99%
1835	104	-14.75%
1845	156	50.00%
1855	324	107.69%
1865	128	-60.49%
1875	68	-46.88%
1885	204	200.00%
1895	351	72.06%
1905	680	93.73%
1915	1,059	55.74%
1925	2,734	158.17%
1935	3,052	11.63%
1945	2,480	-18.74%
1955	6,575	165.12%
1965	12,419	88.88%
1975	20,615	66.00%
1985	22,021	6.82%
1993	24,299	10.34%

Early governance: 1821 legislation

- Elected by joint ballot of the legislature
- 65 member board of trustees, chaired by governor
- 1835: creation of 7-member Executive committee

Civil War and Reconstruction

- In 1858, the university boasted an enrollment of 461, making it the largest institution, after the University of Virginia, of higher learning in the South.
- By 1865, total enrollment had declined to 60.

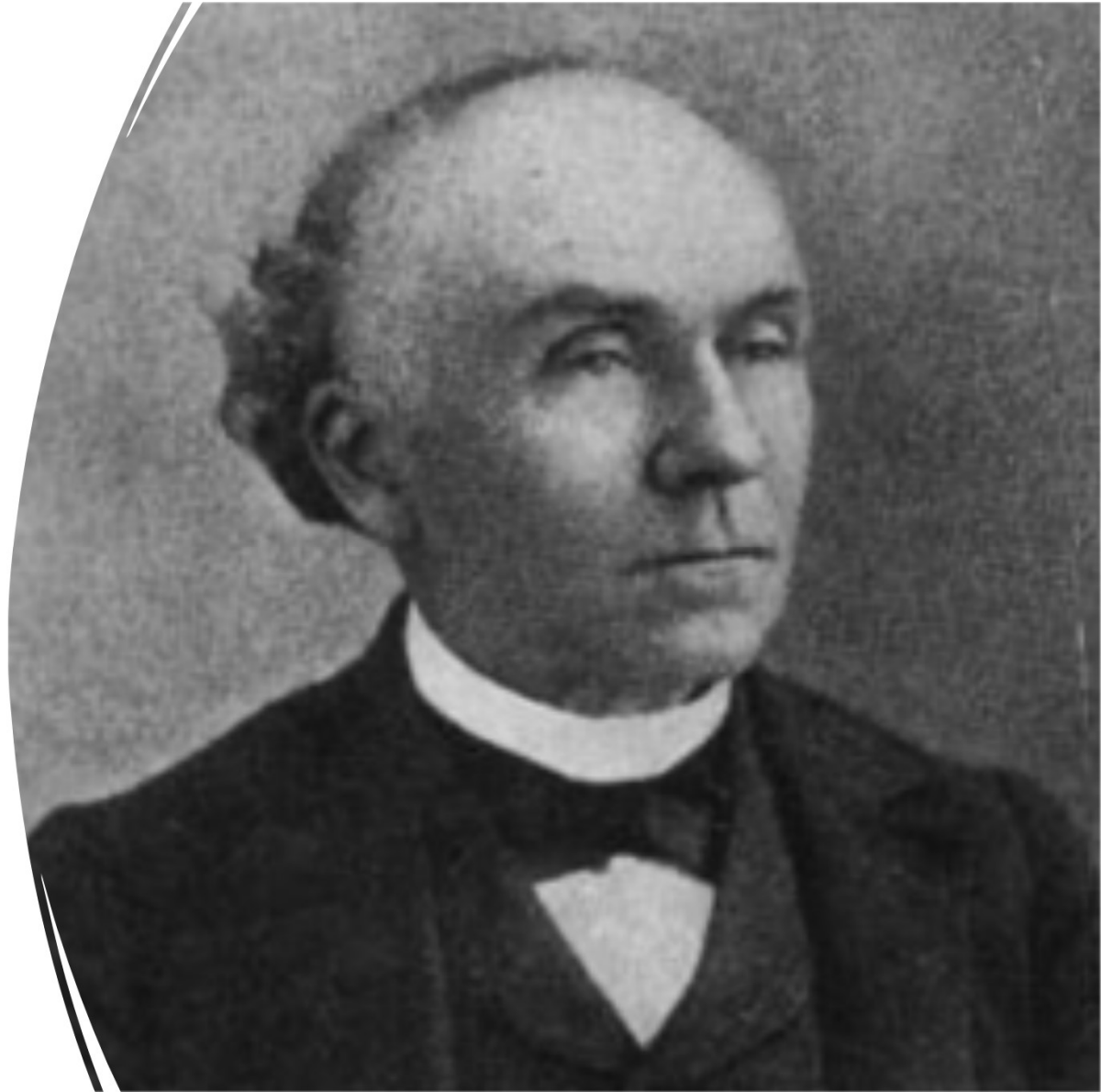
Civil War and Reconstruction

- 1868: David Lowry Swain and the faculty tendered their resignations
- Before this could be done, however, a new state constitution was adopted.
- Shift from trustees' control to state board of education



William
Woods
Holden, 1818-
1892

Solomon
Pool, 1832-
1901



Civil War and Reconstruction

- 1868 constitution (Article IX, Section 9) required the General Assembly to "provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of public schools, wherein tuition shall be free of charge to all of the children of the State between the ages of six and twenty-one years."
- Feb 1871 to Sept 1875 UNC closed



The Modern
University of
North Carolina

- EK Graham's declaration that the university should make itself "co-extensive with the boundaries of the State," which meant making UNC in a "warm, sensitive touch with every problem in North Carolina life, small and great."
- Bargain with NC political power structure

Depression and University Consolidation

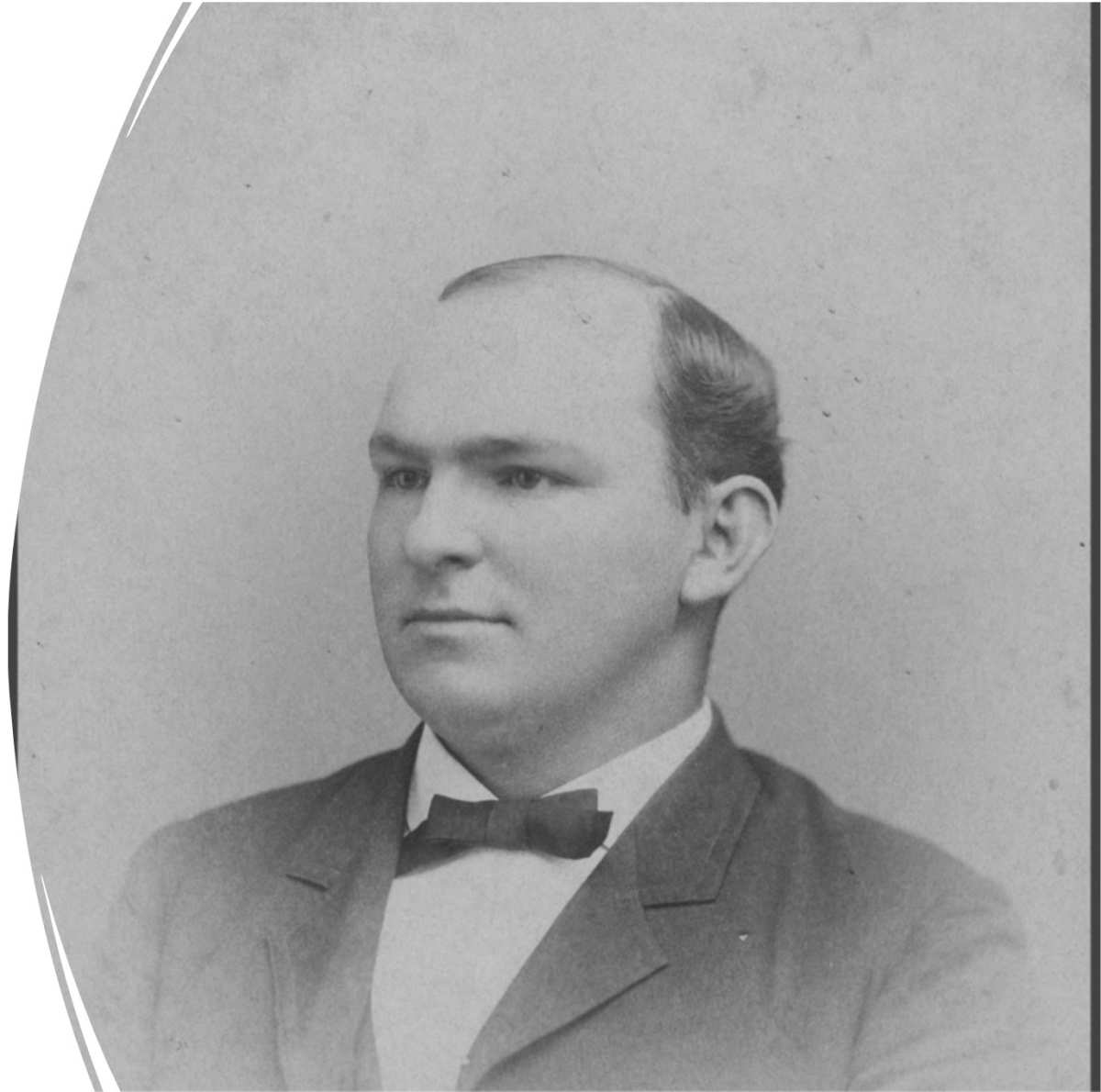
REPORT ON A SURVEY
of the
Organization and Administration
of the
State Government of North Carolina

Submitted to
GOVERNOR O. MAX GARDNER

BY
INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT RESEARCH
OF
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C.
1930

North Carolina senior public colleges: Greensboro

- State Normal & Industrial School founded in 1891
- 1897: State Normal & Industrial College
- 1919-1931: North Carolina College for Women
- Impact of Charles D. McIver (1860-1906)



State Normal graduating class, 1893



NC State

- Founded 1887 under Morrill land-grant act
- Open in 1889, with 72 students, six faculty
- North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts
- Courses in agriculture, horticulture, pure and agricultural chemistry, English and bookkeeping, and mathematics and practical mechanics
- Name change 1917: North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering
- Known as “State College”

UNC consolidation

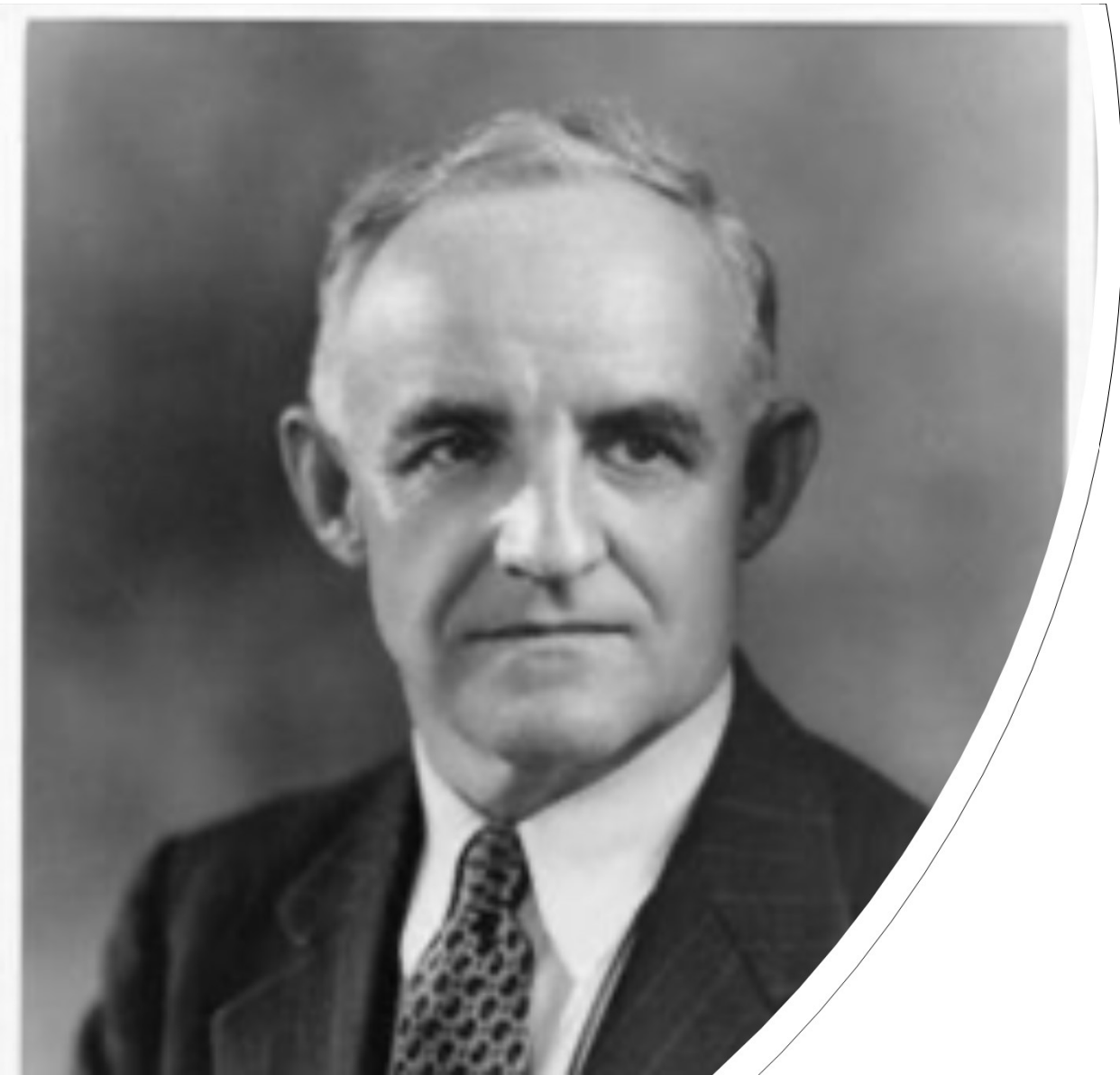
- 1931 legislative enactment
- 1931-32 Survey Committee
- In May 1932, the survey committee proposed that a new, consolidated university, with a single president and administration, be located in Chapel Hill.
- Proposed to reduce the roles of the Raleigh and Greensboro campuses
- Consolidation commission then attempted to implement proposal

Controversy

- Its most controversial proposal was that State College's schools of agriculture and engineering should be moved to Chapel Hill and that the Raleigh campus should be transformed into a junior college.
- Once the report went to the consolidation commission, however, the commission ignored the survey committee's controversial recommendations about State College.

UNC consolidation

- The new, reconstituted UNC board of trustees, with 100 members and a twelve-member executive committee, met in July 1932 and adopted these recommendations. It ordered the election of a single consolidated university president and the appointment of three vice-presidents—later, deans of administration, and, after that, chancellors—to administer the campuses.
- Engineering school fight
- Greensboro and co-education



Frank Porter
Graham,
1886-1972

Transforming UNC

- 1961-62: Carlyle Commission
- 1963: NC legislature to create a community college system and elevate existing state-supported two-year colleges in Charlotte, Asheville, and Wilmington to four-year institution.
- These campuses joined the existing Consolidated University schools (Chapel Hill, N.C. State, and Woman's College, now UNCG) to form the UNC System.

Governance

- UNC campuses under UNC Board of Trustees
- All other institutions: under State Board of Higher Education



William
Friday, 1920-
2012

White Teachers' Colleges

- Western Carolina: founded as high school, 1889; became Western Carolina Teachers' College, 1929. Made a "regional university" in 1967
- Appalachian State: founded 1899, became Appalachian State Teachers College
- North Carolina School of Science and Math
- UNC School for the Arts
- East Carolina: founded 1909, became a university in 1967

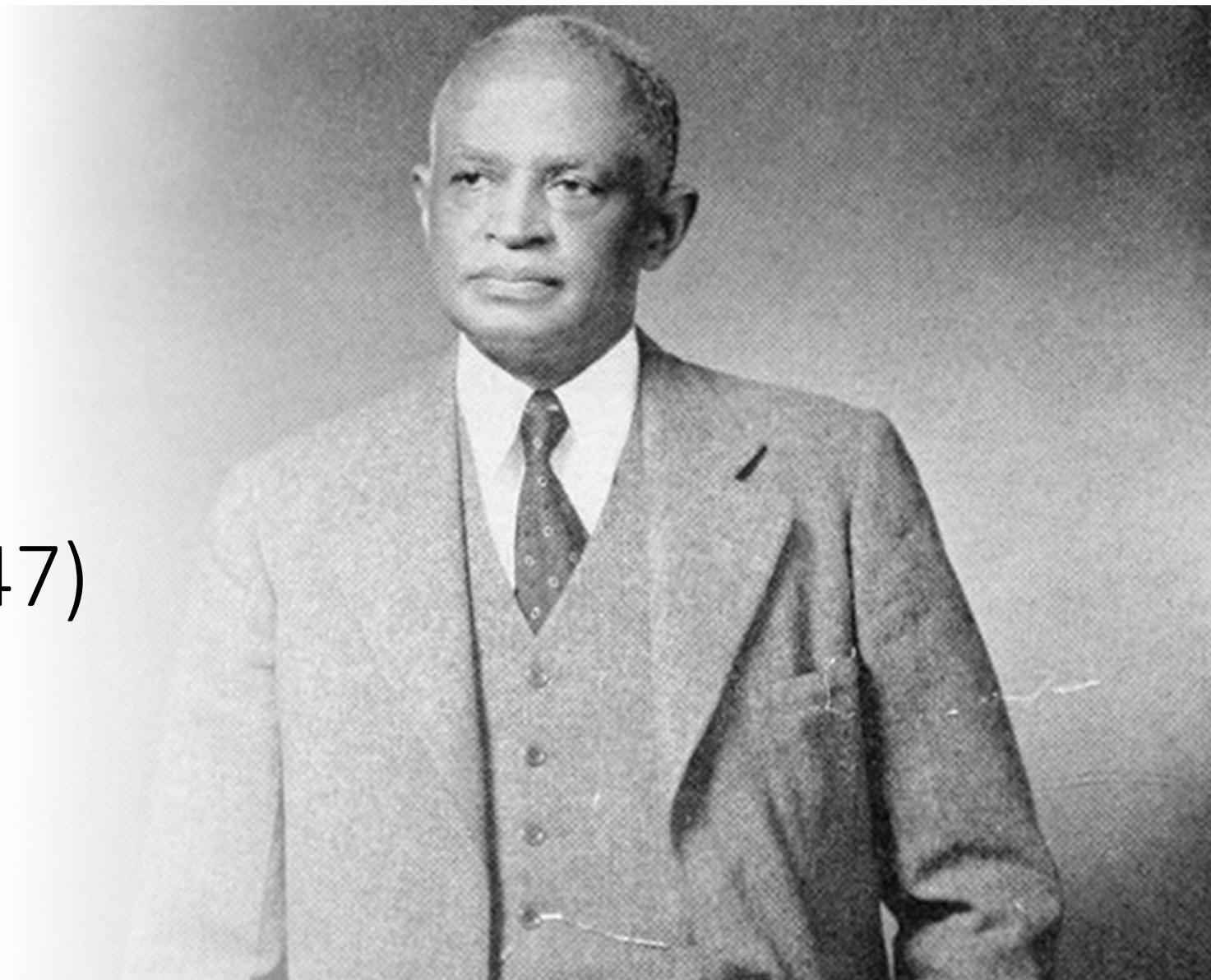


Leo Jenkins (1913-
1989)

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

- 5 HBCUs:
- Greensboro, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville State, Winston-Salem State, NC College for Negroes (NC Central)
- Pembroke State (1941); Pembroke State College for Indians

James E.
Shepard
(1875-1947)



Challenges going forward

- Absorbing campuses
- Desegregation
- Medical education

Since 2004...

- 2006 – The NC School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) was added as the 17th UNC System institution (and the only constituent high school in the System)
- 2015 – Limited Board of Governors members to serving no more than three full four-year terms; created a new process for the Board of Governors to select a UNC System President
- 2016 – Removed the four gubernatorial appointments to the Boards of Trustees and replaced with two appointments to each Board of Trustees from the House and two from the Senate
- 2017 – Reduced the number of members of the Board of Governors from 32 to 24