

RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL WAR TABLETS

WHEREAS, the Rotunda's façade has bronze tablets commemorating those students and alumni who fought and died in the service of the United States in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and in the Iraq War; and

WHEREAS, the earliest of those tablets commemorates the students and alumni who died in service to the Confederacy during the Civil War. These tablets were erected following a meeting of the Board of Visitors on November 10, 1903, where, upon the recommendation of the Faculty, the Board of Visitors authorized the Ladies' Confederate Association to erect "at some suitable place at the University, to be approved by the Chairman of the Faculty, Chairman of the Executive Committee & the Proctor, a bronze tablet bearing the names of the Alumni and Students of this Institution who died in the service of the Confederacy"; and

WHEREAS, the location chosen for erecting two tablets honoring the deceased Confederate soldiers was either side of the door of the Rotunda facing the Lawn, where they are now located; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the University has undertaken a substantial effort to expand the known history of the University and to recognize all persons including enslaved workers who helped build and maintain the University; and

WHEREAS, the University's Nau Center on Civil War History is conducting research on those affiliated with the University who fought on behalf of the United States in the Civil War, and they have catalogued the names of more than fifty University students and alumni, and one faculty member, who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War and who are not recognized in any way on Grounds; and

WHEREAS, the tablets on the Rotunda do not recognize or reflect the complete history of the University related to the Civil War;

RESOLVED, consistent with the original resolution authorizing the tablets honoring the deceased Confederate soldiers to be erected "at some suitable place at the University", the Board of Visitors finds that the Rotunda is no longer a suitable place for the tablets in their current form; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board supports relocating the current Civil War tablets to a more suitable location at the University where they may be preserved as artifacts of the era in which they were erected, and utilized to provide context to the history of the University; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board encourages the Deans Working Group, led by Dean Goluboff, to consider the appropriateness of memorializing all who participated in the Civil War in a tablet on the Rotunda or in other ways that tell the University's history more fully.