Feb: 1st is reported of ere. I beg of you, the Committee to instruct them to me, for the end indicated above. After this use they shall be from my attendance.

Knowing you to be an alumnus of the Constitution and to have been for years connected with its intellectual administration and feeling sure for those and other reasons that you desire to see it placed more and more in the situation which it occupies when you entered its portals, indulge the hope that you will give the committee of which I am chairman all the facilities for information and the furtherance of its commission which you can command, and give them with that cheerfulness which should distinguish every citizen of the state who desires to see the progress of learning among your people.

Very Respectfully

[Signature]

Chairman

Chapel Hill, April 4th 1874

Hon. Walter L. Steele

Dear Sir:

You received at April 3rd last in which you requested me to extend to you the keys to the buildings which contain the Philosophic and College Libraries in order that you may discharge certain duties committed to your care. This by a body of gentlemen who claim to be Trustees of the University elected by the "General Assembly of the State, in pursuance of a power conferred by the amended Constitution" was not handed to me until the hour.

You will allow me to assure you that the Governor of the State, in his message to the last General Assembly in November last, shows with the utmost candor as to the legality of the Constitutional amendments to which you allude.

He also raises the question whether even if the legislature upon that subject had been properly done, the General Assembly could legally continue in session after the first Monday in December 1873. I am informed also that even such legal difficulties as alone in question, to exist still, there is doubt as to whether the late General Assembly was authorized to elect Trustees, and that in a letter to me, Mr. Graham and others the Governor claims it as an executive function to nominate Trustees and submit his nominations to the Senate for confirmation.