Statement from Members of the UNC-Chapel Hill Faculty of Color/Indigenous Faculty (FOC/IF) Group

We have noted, with concern, media reports about attempts to usurp and replace our university's Chancellor, Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz. We strongly oppose any efforts to remove our campus leader, without any input, whatsoever, from our faculty, staff, students, and other members of the Carolina community. Such interference flies in the face of long-standing principles of shared governance at UNC-Chapel Hill.

As stated on our Faculty Governance website, “[s]ince the University of North Carolina opened its doors in 1795, faculty have shared responsibility with a Board of Trustees for running the campus. Principles of shared governance and best practices for keeping strong the faculty voice in university policy-making were articulated as early as 1920, when the American Association of University Professors published its first statement on shared governance between faculty, administrators, and trustees.”

We urge the UNC-System Board of Governors and the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees to honor the long tradition of faculty governance at UNC-Chapel Hill and refrain from any unilateral action to remove Chancellor Guskiewicz.

About the FOC/IF

Founded in 2017, the Faculty of Color and Indigenous Faculty Group, comprised of over 200 members across the campus, is based at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) and provides support, community, and professional and leadership development for faculty of color and Indigenous faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and professional schools at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Signed,

Dr. Patricia S. Parker, IAH Director and Ruel W. Tyson Distinguished Professor
Deb Aikat, Associate Professor, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media
Sheila Kannappan, Professor and Associate Chair for Diversity, Physics and Astronomy
Damaris N. Lorenzo, Assistant Professor, Cell Biology and Physiology
Tanya L. Shields, Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
Gabriela Valdivia, Professor, Geography
David Mora Marín, Associate Professor, Linguistics
Rosa Perelmuter, Professor of Spanish, Romance Studies department
Eileen R. Carlton Parsons, Tenured Professor, School of Education
Folami Ideraabdullah, Associate Professor, Genetics, Nutrition
Valerie Lambert (Choctaw Nation), Associate Professor, Anthropology Department
Mark E. Henry, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, School of Medicine
Kita Douglas, Teaching Assistant Professor, American Studies
Michael Lambert, Associate Professor, AAAD
Michelle King, Associate Professor, History
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Michelle Robinson, Associate Professor, Department of American Studies
Cassandra R. Davis, Research Associate Professor, Public Policy
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Carla White, Associate Dean, Organizational Diversity and Inclusion, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
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