

Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Resolution on the Affirmation of Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Speech

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, Chapter VI of *The Code of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina* reflects this commitment to support “freedom of inquiry for faculty... free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors”; and

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s Tenure Policy affirms this commitment by acknowledging that “UNC Charlotte supports and encourages full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication for all members of its Faculty, to the end that they may responsibly pursue the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict academic endeavors. The University will protect Faculty Members in the responsible exercise of the freedom to teach, to learn, and otherwise to seek and speak the truth, and will not penalize or discipline members because of the exercise of academic freedom in the lawful pursuit of their respective areas of scholarly and professional interest and responsibility.”; and

WHEREAS, Section 600(3) of the *Code* acknowledges that faculty “share in the responsibility for maintaining an environment in which academic freedom flourishes”; and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Council has laudably demonstrated their commitment to these principles by formally adopting: *Resolution on the Right and Duty of Faculty Members to Speak Freely and the Duty of the University to Protect Free Speech* which provides that “The University and its leaders must actively and publicly advocate for and defend the free speech rights of faculty members, staff and students for all speech protected by the First Amendment” and endorses the University of Chicago’s principles for “the protection and promotion of free speech on campus”; and

WHEREAS, University of Chicago President Robert M. Hutchins stated “‘our students...should have freedom to discuss any problem that presents itself.’ He insisted that the ‘cure’ for ideas we oppose ‘lies through open discussion rather than through inhibition,’”. Self-censorship and fear of reprisal are dangers to the academic enterprise and to freedom of inquiry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Board of Trustees commends the Faculty Council on its diligent work and dedication to free speech and reaffirms its commitment to freedom of inquiry as embodied in the Chicago Principles.

Adopted this ___27th___ day of April , 2023

The Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Kim S. Bradley 4/27/23

Kim S. Bradley Date
Assistant Secretary to the Board
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees

Susan D. DeVore 4-27-23

Susan D. DeVore Date
Chair
UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees