



**P.O. Box 8
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514**

April 6, 2023

Dear Dr. Burks,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the UNC Alumni Free Speech Alliance, an independent, non-partisan organization led by UNC Alumni. UNC AFSA's mission is to support and defend free speech, academic freedom, and viewpoint diversity at UNC-Chapel Hill.

As alumni, we were excited to see that both the UNC Board of Governors and the UNC Board of Trustees recently adopted policies to prohibit compelled speech on campus. This is in addition to UNC-Chapel Hill's commitment to institutional neutrality last July. These are major steps toward ensuring that UNC is a place where students and faculty enjoy broad freedoms of expression and conscience.

In response to these policies, I hope that the UNC School of Medicine will revisit and rescind many of the recommendations outlined in its "Task Force to Integrate Social Justice into the Curriculum." In particular, we are concerned about the use of DEI statements for hiring, promotion, and tenure and of the insertion of divisive concepts into the curriculum. It is disappointing to see this ideological and dogmatic approach to medical training being used at UNC.

The UNC School of Medicine should live up to the ideals of light and liberty as well as the principle of institutional neutrality. To quote from the Kalven report,

To perform its mission in the society, a university must sustain an extraordinary environment of freedom of inquiry and maintain an independence from political fashions, passions, and pressures. A university, if it is to be true to its faith in intellectual inquiry, must embrace, be hospitable to, and encourage the widest diversity of views within its own community.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the Report and to stand up for freedom of expression and conscience in the School of Medicine.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

www.uncafsa.org/mission-and-leadership