



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

January 30, 2023

Dear Trustees:

On the behalf of the UNC Free Speech Alliance and thousands of interested UNC alums, we want to thank you for your efforts to encourage the prompt establishment of a School of Civic Life and Leadership at the University (see links below). We applaud the efforts of University leaders to establish this new School, which will promote free speech, civil discourse, and viewpoint diversity.

Many of the close to 350,000 living UNC alumni and students are concerned about the rising tide of intolerance in higher education. An example of such intolerance was the recent protest at UNC Law School of an Alliance Defending Freedom representative, who was heckled by student activists and thereby had his right to freedom of speech curtailed.

There is a disturbing trend in higher education of condemning those with whom one disagrees, as being motivated by intolerance or some form of hatred. Civil and respectful disagreements are giving way to efforts to shut down and cancel opposing viewpoints. There is a great need for the new School that you are promoting. We encourage you to ensure the independence of the new School, so that it will be able to provide a beneficial educational experience for UNC students.

Given the growing interest in existing and new universities across America that pursue open inquiry and seek truth (UNC-CH's well-established mission), we believe the School of Civic Life and Leadership, if done right, will become an extremely popular option for Carolina faculty and students. Your trend setting vision will set UNC-CH apart from its competition nationally in a most creative way. It squarely meets student educational needs in North Carolina and beyond.

We look forward to following the important development.

Congratulations, thank you again, and very well done.

Sincerely,

The Board
UNC Alumni Free Speech Alliance (UNC AFSA)

[The UNC Board of Trustee's Resolution about The School of Civic Life and Leadership](#)
[The UNC Chancellor's Related Message](#)
[Wall Street Journal Article](#)