

April 7, 2018

Report of the Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group (CWG) would like to transmit materials for discussion at our meeting on April 13, 2018. As background, Chair of the Faculty, Leslie Parise, received separate requests from a faculty member and several students to consider a statement on free speech. This request was discussed with the faculty executive committee, which then suggested that a separate working group be formed to consider this further. In response, the Chair of the Faculty appointed and instructed the CWG to draft a statement that reflects UNC's affirmation of free speech and expression.

Members of the CWG include:

Mimi V. Chapman, Professor of Social Work (chair)

Michael J. Gerhardt, Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor in Constitutional Law

Shayna Hill, Chair of the Employee Forum

Benny Joyner, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, and Social Medicine

Mark McNeilly, Professor of the Practice, Kenan-Flagler Business School

John McGowan, John W. and Anna H. Hanes Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Jill D. Moore, Associate Professor of Public Law and Government

Richard. Myers, Henry Brandis Distinguished Professor of Law

Gloria D. Thomas, Director, Carolina Women's Center

Lindsie D. Trego, Graduate Student, School of Media and Journalism and School of Law

Members of the group were chosen jointly by the chair and the chair of the faculty. A group representing a wide range of disciplines was sought. Some individuals who were approached could not participate. The CWG met for an all-day meeting on February 26, 2018, to begin its work and on March 5 to continue its work. At February 26th meeting, the workgroup was able to engage with Professor Geoff Stone, Chair of the Faculty Committee that drafted the subsequently adopted Chicago Principles. Based on conversation with Professor Stone, the CWG believed it was best to keep the language of the Chicago Principles as stated by the University of Chicago but to create a context around those principles that would speak to the Carolina context. That document was endorsed by the Faculty Executive Committee on March 19, 2018 pending additional changes, prompting the committee to meet again on March 28th, 2018. In addition to incorporating changes recommended by the Faculty Executive Committee, Professor Jim Leloudis, who had been unable to participate in earlier meetings, recommended additional changes which were incorporated in to the final document to be presented to the faculty on April 13, 2018.

I thank all of the members of the working group who came together quickly and worked diligently to consider and address this issue.

Sincerely,

Mimi Chapman,
Chair of the CWG