

The Faculty Council resolves that plans for the Program for Civic Virtue and Civil Discourse, an initiative designed to impact the curriculum, should be put on hold until there has been a full and public discussion about the structure and programmatic intentions of this new institution — one that now appears to allow outsiders, undisclosed donors, and non-UNC faculty to shape the UNC curriculum.

### Rationale

The development of the Program for Civic Virtue and Civil Discourse has been going on behind closed doors in administrative offices for two years. What little the faculty have been told about it, however, is disturbing. The purposes so far described, as gleaned from planning documents made available through a public-records request and two brief presentations at Faculty Executive Committee meetings, amount to a blatant departure from the longstanding AAUP and UNC principle that curriculum must come exclusively from the faculty.

### Answer to Rationale

- The faculty members who have shaped the rough draft of the Program for Public Discourse up to this point fully understand our colleagues' concerns about the history of this program. The current proposal has evolved drastically over the past two years—into a program that has no specific ideological content, but simply a focus on the best methods for teaching students to be open-minded, active citizens. The Program for Public Discourse does not bear any meaningful resemblance to “conservative” programs at other schools—and that’s a testament to the success of these early faculty deliberations.
- However, these deliberations are not concluded. We look forward to incorporating input from colleagues who take the time to share with us their best practices, methodologies, and expertise in a series of conversations to be convened by the Dean of the College later this fall.
- All courses developed or enhanced in the college using support from this program will come exclusively from faculty, in conformity with AAUP and UNC principles.
- All courses developed or enhanced will also be in conformity with the new IDEAs in Action Curriculum just approved by the Faculty Council, and will take up explicitly the Curriculum’s call to further develop how we teach students the capacity to participate successfully in the public sphere.
- All courses will be subject to the review of the college administrative boards, as for all UNC courses.
- The Program’s external advisers have no role in shaping or approving courses or extra-curricular programming, beyond offering occasional suggestions (many of which we have already felt free to reject).
- No faculty will be required to participate in the program or develop courses using program support.
- All gift agreements to the program contain the following language, so that there is no mistake about our commitment to AAUP and UNC principles:

“The donor understands that the College and the University are committed to academic freedom and shared governance, such that faculty and the dean determine the content of academic programs, course curricula and the selection of faculty who teach students.”

- In short, we ask that UNC faculty approach the development of this program in good faith, and evaluate the concrete proposals before you--with the understanding that the early history of an idea does not predetermine what it actually becomes, especially at Carolina.