

Resolution 2019-10. On Delaying the Program for Public Discourse

The Faculty Council resolves that plans for the Program for Public 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.

Submitted by Professor Jay Smith

Rationale

The development of the Program for Public Discourse (under the working title 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.