

**Chair of the Faculty Mimi Chapman remarks
Faculty Council 3/19/2021**

As we know, since last March there has been an uptick in anti-Asian sentiment as well as acts of violence toward Asian and Pacific Islander communities in this country. Indeed, because of hateful incidents on this campus, the Chancellor put out a statement denouncing such behavior and rhetoric on March 9th. Days later, on March 16th we saw this violence erupt in the most horrific manifestation to date in the Atlanta shooting in which 6 Asian women were killed. Whether the shooter's stated motive was anti-Asian or not, the impact is that Asian communities in this country are deeply shaken and worried about what comes next.

Sadly, anti-Asian sentiment is not new. From the Chinese Exclusion Act signed into law in 1882 to the internment of Japanese Americans that began in February of 1942, this ugly beast retreats only to rear its head again as it is doing now. In 2008, I made my first of many trips to China and began friendships and scholarly partnerships that are rich and deep. The idea that my colleagues would feel unwelcome and unsafe in my country churns my stomach. I think of the students and colleagues on this campus and in this community who have so enriched my life. I am appalled that they are suffering and afraid. This scourge of anti-Asian sentiment is yet another pain this pandemic has wrought.

Therefore, before I share a few other things with you and turn to our agenda, I hope you will join me in supporting a resolution condemning such rhetoric and violence. I'd like to give Vin the gavel to preside at this point.

[Resolution Voting]

Thank you all for your support of the resolution. There is another item I want to bring to your attention before moving forward with today's agenda. Earlier this week, I was contacted by the Chair of the Faculty at Fayetteville State. As you may be aware, a new Chancellor has been selected at that university. However, the process by which that Chancellor was selected has come under deep scrutiny and the Chair is asking all sister schools in the UNC system to support his faculty in their concerns. This is a matter that requires some study and thought before bringing a resolution to you. I have asked that we take this up at our next Faculty Executive Committee meeting on March 29th. As a committee, we will be reviewing information about how this search was conducted, news articles, etc. and will decide whether we should act immediately or whether FEC could bring a resolution for your support in April. So stay tuned on that front.

I should not close without acknowledging all of the hopeful moments on our campus right now. Seeing so many of you getting vaccines and knowing that eligibility for others is right around the corner fills me with thanksgiving. We still have a long way to go and a lot to figure out for the fall. But we are getting there, and we are getting there together. Let's keep showing up for each other in ways big and small.