

Resolution 2023-1. On Supporting the Implementation of the IDEAS in Action Curriculum and Disapproving the Creation of a New School at UNC-Chapel Hill

The Faculty Council finds:

1. On January 26, 2023, the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees adopted a [resolution](#) requesting the administration of UNC-CH to accelerate its development of a School of Civic Life and Leadership with a goal of a minimum of 20 faculty members and degree opportunities for undergraduate students. During the Board's meeting, the resolution was described as an outgrowth of a budget request for \$3 million to implement the existing requirements of the IDEAs in Action curriculum.
2. On February 5, 2023, the Faculty Executive Committee received a copy of an undated budget memo requesting \$5 million in recurring funds to create a new School of Civic Life and Leadership within the College of Arts and Sciences. The initial funding would be used to support "development of the school, hiring of leadership, faculty, programming, staff, and expansion of the curricular work of the existing Program for Public Discourse." The budget requirements of the proposed new School were projected to grow to \$12.6 million by the 2026-27 fiscal year.
3. Section 2-6 of *The Faculty Code of University Government* empowers the Faculty Council "to determine the educational policies of the University and the rules and regulations under which administrators and faculty will conduct the educational activities of the University" and "to prescribe the requirements for admissions, programs of study, and the award of academic degrees by the University in the context of the basic educational policies of the University and the special competencies of the faculties of particular colleges and schools."
4. The faculty has not been consulted about the creation of a new degree-granting school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Until the Board of Trustees' public adoption of its January 26 resolution, faculty leaders were unaware that any such school had been proposed.

Based on these findings, the Faculty Council resolves:

The College of Arts and Sciences should be fully supported in implementing the IDEAs in Action curriculum. We maintain that implementing the IDEAs in Action curriculum and establishing the proposed School of Civic Life and Leadership are conceptually separate undertakings that should not be entangled. The Faculty Council supports the adequate provision of resources to the College for the purpose of implementing all aspects of the IDEAs in Action curriculum.

The creation of a new degree-granting school on the UNC-CH campus is a matter for which faculty are responsible. The proposal for a new School of Civic Life and Leadership did not originate with the faculty, was not communicated to the faculty in advance, and has not been studied by the faculty. Faculty members' questions about the vision for the new program--such as the sequencing of coursework, the scholarship that supports the discipline, any overlap with existing courses or programs, and the utility of the program to our graduates—have gone unanswered. Further, public assertions by some University leaders that we impose improper "constraints on what can be taught in university classes" and need additional kinds of political "balance" are false and unfairly malign this faculty.

Moreover, the Faculty Council anticipates that the proposed school will consume badly needed resources for the University's existing programs and facilities.

For these reasons, the Faculty Council disapproves any further action on such a school under these circumstances.

Submitted by Professor Harry L. Watson (History)