



# Rep. Jon Hardister

NC House Majority Whip  
Chair, NC House Education – Universities  
300 N. Salisbury St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603, Room 635

November 1, 2021

UNC Chapel Hill  
Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz  
1001 Raleigh Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Chancellor Guskiewicz,

It was recently brought to my attention that the UNC Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) held a mandatory "equity, diversity and inclusion" training program that was presented by Christina Parle with an organization called Social Responsibility Speaks (SRS). Based on the evidence that has been presented by the Carolina Review, the contents of this training program are divisive and offensive.

College students can and should have the opportunity to hear about different worldviews. That is one of the primary purposes of education. But to *require* participation in a "training" session that tells students there is only one way to view the world is more aligned with indoctrination than it is to education.

Some of the contents of this "training" include the claim that we are on stolen land in North Carolina; the claim that grocery stores are oppressive because not everyone can reach the top shelf; that airlines are oppressive because not everyone can fit into an average size seat; that our society "disempowers, or sometimes harms" people who are left-handed; that "whiteness" and "white privilege" pervade our society; and that "whiteness" and "white privilege" can be juxtaposed with other tenets of oppression.

Apparently, some of the students claimed that they felt "guilty" and "convicted" when asked how they felt after being presented with this information. This is shameful. It is reckless and irresponsible to promote the theory that a person (in this case a college student) should feel guilty simply because their skin is a certain color.

Treating other people with respect, being tolerant and following the "Golden Rule" is something that we all should embrace. Unfortunately, programs such as the one presented by SRS do not accomplish these goals. Instead, programs like this perpetuate division, animosity and mistrust. It is very concerning, and also very sad, that this kind of propaganda is being mandated in a public university. It is ironic that programs like this do the opposite of their expressed intentions; while they claim to promote tolerance and inclusivity, they in fact do the opposite.

Our students deserve better than this. We should not require students to be subjected to toxic, politically-motivated theories that result in social discord. Our public universities should be a warm, welcome environment that offers a diversity of perspectives to all students, rather than mandating divisive, ideological programs.

As the chairman of the NC House Education - Universities Committee, I respectfully request answers from your office on this matter. I have propounded several questions below:

1. Do you believe mandating the SRS program was inappropriate? Why or why not?
2. Has SRS been contracted to speak to other groups, employees, students or organizations on campus within the last three years? If so, please provide the details.
3. Can you confirm how much this program cost and how it was paid for?
4. Will you take steps to prevent this program, and others like it, from being mandated in the future?
5. Does your administration have a plan to address concerns related to politically-motivated indoctrination on campus both in the classroom and in university-sanctioned organizations?
6. Are you concerned about people losing confidence in our education system due to incidents like this?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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