



November 30, 2021

Dear Rep. Hardister,

Thank you for contacting me. I appreciate the continued partnership with our state's elected officials in fulfilling our mission of excellence in teaching, research and service at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a follow-up to our recent phone conversation, I wanted to respond to your concerns about an event sponsored by the UNC Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) office.

The FSL office had been hosting year-long educational programming based on eight dimensions of wellness, which includes physical wellness, financial skills and career building, among others. I understand that the series was developed based on student feedback and in response to the students' request for more programming with a focus on wellness.

The session offered on October 18, 2021, focused on intellectual wellness that featured guest speaker Christina Parle. This speaker's fee for this event was \$4,000, which was paid by fraternity and sorority chapter members' fees. I have been assured that this was the only contact the University has had with the speaker's organization in the past three years.

While this program has been mischaracterized as mandatory training for all students on campus, the series was exclusively offered for members of the university's fraternity and sorority chapters. The series had no connection to academic curriculum or programming. Attendance was not required by the University, not even for every member of the chapter. Chapters, however, did agree to send a percentage of their members to the program, consistent with FSL practice for outside speakers, but this participation requirement is flexible and negotiable.

You should know that I have now met with several students who attended the session to help me better understand the nature of the session and students' response to it. There were mixed reactions to the content presented and while many found it useful, clearly others did not. Regardless, the series is now on hold and under review. It will be reevaluated in the new year before any new sessions are offered.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns and for your continued support for public higher education in our state. Please don't hesitate to reach back out if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Guskiewicz
Chancellor