



The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association  
2018-2019 Executive Board  
Statement of Opposition to the Re-Installation of “Silent Sam”

December 6, 2018

To the UNC Community,

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association strongly rejects the recommendation and intentions made by Chancellor Carol Folt and the UNC Board of Trustees to re-erect the Confederate monument known as “Silent Sam” on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Chancellor Carol Folt and the UNC Board of Trustees have blatantly disregarded our expressed wishes to uninstall and remove the statue, that wretched emblem of hatred, terror, and violence, off of our campus. They have heard and seen our passionate outcry towards this issue, but instead, chose to stand up for the hate Silent Sam represents by not challenging the egregious state law that requires its standing.

We are standing, not only in opposition to the re-erection of the statue, but we are standing UP for the values that we share and hold dear as citizens, as leaders and as HUMANS. As we stand, we are the ones who most embody the true goals and ideals this university claims to represent. It is a shame however, that they, as our “leaders,” do not.

We feel that the \$5.3 million suggested to fund this heinous project could be used in several beneficial and more productive ways including, but not limited to: funding additional graduate research, increasing teaching and graduate research assistants’ stipends, providing additional scholarships to those graduate students in tremendous debt, and fully funding the education of more students of color, most of whom are grossly underrepresented at this institution.

We fully support graduate students and their constitutional right to peacefully protest and speak out against injustice. We highly encourage student activism around this issue. We also support statements made by the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, Black Student Movement, the Campus Y, the Undergraduate Executive Branch Officers and several other allies who also oppose this re-installment.

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association will not rest until that statue is no longer on university property. We are stakeholders at this University and our voices will be heard.

Signed,

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association,  
Executive Board 2018-2019

For questions or comments, please email [uncch.bgpsa@gmail.com](mailto:uncch.bgpsa@gmail.com).