



August 30, 2017

Chancellor Folt,

We members of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGPSA) unanimously condemn UNC's unwavering support and protection of the racist memorials and monuments on the university's campus, including the confederate statue Silent Sam.

BGPSA and the black students it represents are angered and disappointed at your unwillingness to act on the removal of the statue, even after having received permission from the Governor of North Carolina to remove it. We are also deeply concerned about your urging of students to "not attend the rally on Tuesday," which we saw as a remarkable suppression of free speech and freedom of assembly.

We find it appalling how you as a representative of a body of diverse peoples, can simultaneously "promote" diversity, social justice and cultural safe spaces, while on the other hand, protecting a symbol of racism, white supremacy and intolerance. This embrace of white supremacy while trying to represent our student body that demonstrably refutes that racist ideology and all its symbols is unacceptable.

The UNC board of trustees has made its choice, and it is crystal clear to all of the university's students and the country that it has aligned itself with racism, bigotry, and white supremacy. You have an opportunity, however, to forge a different path, one apart from the alliance your board has made with hate. Please take this opportunity to support your students and the UNC community by standing in solidarity with all of us who refuse to coexist in the same space as this sign of hate that has been venerated on our campus.

Signed,

Black Graduate and Professional Student Association

*Henry Willis* - President

*Anthony McClenny* - Social Chair

*Ampson Hagan* - Treasurer