Resolution 2006-10. Calling on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to Withdraw from Negotiations over the Program in Honors Foundations in Western Cultures and to Abide by Rules for Faculty Input into Donations that Affect the Curriculum.

Whereas,

The University exists to foster research, free inquiry, and public service;

Integrity begins with appropriate policies, operations, and curriculum;

It is a basic tenet of academic freedom that instructional faculty are best suited to set the curricular agenda and maintain educational excellence;

The Task Force on Donations Affecting the Curriculum concluded in its Final Report, submitted to the Provost and accepted by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council (ECFC):

1) The purpose of these guidelines is to promote early consultation with faculty about potential donations that have a material effect on the curriculum;

2) The University recognizes the need to involve faculty early in the process when potential donations affect the curriculum, and to provide faculty with as much information as possible throughout the process;

3) The head of an affected unit shall consult with the administrative board of the unit, other appropriate committees within the unit, and individual faculty members, as deemed appropriate by the unit head, in order to ensure that the proposed donation is consistent with the needs and priorities of the unit. The unit head should bear in mind that one purpose of these consultations is to ensure that faculty are informed of the potential donation;

And whereas,

The College of Arts and Sciences has developed a detailed proposal for an undergraduate Honors Program in Western Cultures aimed at the Pope Foundation;

The University administration has repeatedly misled faculty members and violated explicit promises that this proposal would be publicly reviewed and that instructional faculty would be consulted at all stages;

Appropriate and directly concerned faculty on the Honors Advisory Board, in the Honors Program, and in the Department of Classics were neither informed about nor given an opportunity to participate in discussions about the content and relevance of said Program;

Numerous colleagues, including many in the Departments of English and Classics, and on the Honors Advisory Board, have formally expressed dismay at the proposed Program;
In 2005 the Honors Advisory Board rejected a similar Honors Foundation in Great Books sequence described in the University’s original proposal (dated February 3, 2005); in 2005 over 100 faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and across the University publicly condemned the University’s secretive negotiations over a similar program;\(^1\)

The University has publicly reiterated its commitment to furthering undergraduate education in international and global studies and to an inclusive educational mission;\(^2\)

Instructional faculty participating in the recent evaluation and revision of the undergraduate curriculum did not identify a need for additional courses or programs in western culture; and

The proposed program, by requiring disproportionate attention to “the West,” is intended to have a lasting influence on the direction of the curriculum which would reflect negatively on the quality, reputation, and image of the University;

Therefore be it resolved that the General Faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

- Calls upon the Chancellor and the Administration of the College of Arts and Sciences to withdraw formally from negotiations over the proposal;
- Reiterates the faculty’s role as the primary arbiter of intellectual and curricular matters;
- Restates the faculty’s long-running commitment to academic freedom;
- Expresses grave concern at recent attempts to circumvent that role;
- Calls upon the Chancellor and Administration of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to implement policies and practices that faithfully preserve curricular integrity and transparency; and
- Calls upon the Chancellor and Administration of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to act in accordance with the spirit and letter of the rules established by the Task Force on Donations Affecting the Curriculum.

\(^1\) American Association of University Professors, “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities.”
[http://www.aaup.org/statements/Redbook/Govern.htm](http://www.aaup.org/statements/Redbook/Govern.htm)

\(^2\) [http://www.unc.edu/ provost](http://www.unc.edu/ provost)

\(^3\) The proposed program would be housed in Honors and the first course of the proposed sequence contains exclusively Greco-Roman material.

\(^4\) The letter, with a list of the first 71 signatories (33 more have since signed on) may be found at [http://www.dailytarheel.com/media/storage/paper885/news/2005/03/01/OpinionslettersToTheEditor/Open-Letter.From.71.Faculty.To.University.Administrators-1363732.shtml?norewrite200604171552&source=www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com/media/storage/paper885/news/2005/03/01/OpinionslettersToTheEditor/Open-Letter.From.71.Faculty.To.University/Administrators-1363732.shtml?norewrite200604171552&source=www.dailytarheel.com) or via a link at [http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu](http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu)

\(^5\) Moeser, James, “State of the University, 2005” ([http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/sep05/stateofuniversity091505.htm](http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/sep05/stateofuniversity091505.htm); Faculty Council resolution 98-6 ([http://www.unc.edu/diversity/facultyresolution.html](http://www.unc.edu/diversity/facultyresolution.html))