

November 2, 2018

To the UNC Public Policy Community:

We write this letter to affirm UNC Public Policy faculty, staff, and graduate students support for Chancellor Carol Folt's statement about the future of Silent Sam released on August 31, 2018.¹ **We agree that the statue should not be restored to its pedestal for two main reasons.**

First, while the statue may be a significant and revealing part of UNC's history, it is not a history that elicits pride for many of us. We believe that symbols of white supremacy and oppression have no place on a campus of higher learning, and certainly not in a place of such prominence. Second, with one of the most diverse populations of undergraduate majors in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), we believe that Carolina should maintain an educational environment that promotes safety, racial and ethnic equality, and social inclusion. The return of Silent Sam to its pedestal would undoubtedly further erode our commitment to these important values.

Universities play a key role in empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed. They also shape the moral sentiments of future generations. We must look forward with this goal in mind.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.unc.edu/posts/2018/08/31/message-from-chancellor-folt-on-future-of-monument/>