

Dear Michele Delgado, Jaclyn Maffetore, and Kristi Graunke:

I am writing in response to your January 30, 2025, letter in which you raised concerns about The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's commitment to protecting the rights of its undocumented students. Thank you for sharing the information and perspective that you communicated in your letter.

I know that students within our community are experiencing heightened uncertainty and anxiety as a result of the changing landscape around immigration enforcement. We are continuing to serve these students and to provide resources and support so that we may address their academic, mental health, and other needs.

As I have previously stated, the University has a duty to comply with all applicable laws. This obligation is not new, nor has it changed in recent weeks. As always, if a law enforcement agency comes to campus to execute a warrant or to serve a court order, we will work with UNC Police to verify the credentials of the visiting agents and with the Office of University Counsel to review the documents they present. UNC Police officers never ask, nor do they have information about, an individual's immigration status.

The University will also continue to uphold its longstanding commitment to protecting student privacy in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). As you noted, the University has designated certain items as "directory information" that are available to third parties upon request. "Directory information" does not include a student's immigration status. Additionally, students receive information about how to opt out of directory information disclosures, and they can do so at any point during their enrollment at UNC-Chapel Hill. The University's FERPA policy and FAQs about UNC-Chapel Hill's compliance with FERPA, including directions for opting out of directory information disclosures, is available at <https://registrar.unc.edu/ferpa-guide/>.

As you stated, UNC-Chapel Hill also has a commitment to abide by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Accordingly, the University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment to all students, and the University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's protected status, including a student's national origin. No student will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation under any University program or activity. We offer robust training programs regarding our nondiscrimination obligations, and our Equal Opportunity and Compliance ("EOC") Office provides resources and reporting options to students who believe they have experienced discrimination or harassment based upon their protected status. Additional information regarding the University's EOC Office and its policies is available at <https://eoc.unc.edu/>.

As I expressed during a recent meeting of our Faculty Council, although I cannot put myself in the shoes of someone whose immigration status might be affected by change in policies, I am well aware of the anxiety these students are experiencing. We have over 3,000 international students and scholars, more than 10% of our student population, and we are going to do everything we can to support them as best we can.

Once again, thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to respond.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a cursive-style name.

Lee H. Roberts  
Chancellor