

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHANCELLOR CUMMINGS' ATTENDANCE AT THE LUMBEE
RECOGNITION/DONALD J. TRUMP RALLY IN LUMBERTON, NC**

WHEREAS, Throughout the Fall 2020 semester, strict guidelines have been in place to help protect the university community from the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Chancellor Cummings sent multiple e-mails to the campus community to remind all parties of the importance of following these guidelines and the possible effects of noncompliance¹; and

WHEREAS, Sanctions for students who violated community safety standards through the course of the semester have included removal from campus housing and suspension; and

WHEREAS, On 24 October the Chancellor attended an event that was in clear violation of both campus guidelines and State regulations; and

WHEREAS, Many of the other attendees of that event were unmasked, increasing the health risk of attending the event; and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate supports the 26 October official statement of the UNCP Student Government Association that “the actions of the Chancellor were not a good representation of our student body and were inconsistent with our core values to maintain a safe, and healthy environment on campus, and to appreciate the diversity and respect for the dignity and worth of every individual,” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate does hereby express its disappointment in the Chancellor’s decision to attend the aforementioned event and urges him to apologize to the entire campus community.

¹ 18 August “It is critical that our students, faculty and staff remain committed to the community standards that are now in place regarding face coverings, social distancing, hygiene, gatherings, and other measures designed to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes on- and off-campus behavior. Ignoring these measures has serious consequences. [. . .] I want to emphasize to our campus community that a mass gathering prohibition exists per the Governor’s Executive Order to no more than 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors. While there is an exemption for educational purposes, the university and the Town of Pembroke will be actively enforcing this rule for non-academic gatherings on- and off-campus. Any violation could result in disciplinary action through our Student Conduct process up to and including removal from the university.”

20 August “I want to reiterate clearly to each member of our campus community our chance of successfully completing this semester on campus is directly dependent on individual compliance with the rules and regulations in place. Moving forward, there will be clear and swift consequences for any violations.”

23 August “I want to remind you, do not plan or attend any event with more than 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors. This is a state law, and along with the Town of Pembroke, we will be enforcing the restriction. As my note from last week indicated, we must take a zero-tolerance approach, and there will be real consequences for any violation. No exceptions.”

30 September “It will take the commitment of each of us to safely complete our goal this semester. We have worked so hard already, and we have come so far. I ask you to keep up the great work continuing to wear your masks, remaining six feet from one another, washing your hands and avoiding large gatherings. Now is the time to double our efforts to finish the semester strong and on-campus together.”

7 October “[L]arge gatherings remain prohibited both on- and off-campus. [. . .] We all need to take our virus precautions seriously and understand that even the smallest interactions can have wide-ranging effects. We have worked too hard to be committed to our community health and safety standards for our success to be derailed so close to the end of this semester. Our collective success will be determined by each individual’s actions and adherence to all policies and processes in place.”

23 October (one day prior to event) “We have come so far this semester, and I ask you to please take these final weeks very seriously. We must wear our masks and practice social distancing without fail. And please, do not attend or host gatherings of any size if possible.”