

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Alert: UNC Graduate Student Senate Passes No-Confidence Votes Against Chancellor Lee Roberts and Provost Chris Clemens, Calling on Them To Resign

Chapel Hill, North Carolina (October 8, 2024) — Earlier tonight, the UNC Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) Senate held two votes declaring “no confidence” in UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Lee Roberts and Provost Chris Clemens. The Chancellor Roberts no-confidence vote passed 33-8 with 11 abstentions while the Provost Clemens resolution passed 32-9 and 11 abstentions. Both resolutions were co-authored by Senator Hashem Amireh from the Department of Economics and Senator Nyssa Tucker from the Curriculum in Toxicology and Environmental Medicine. While the vote of no confidence does not automatically result in their removal, the message remains clear: UNC graduate and professional students stand firm in their denunciation of the partisan takeover of UNC, the increased surveillance on campus, and the repression and brutalization of student protestors being spearheaded by the Roberts-Clemens regime.

The vote of no confidence in Chancellor Roberts expressed the Senate’s disapproval of the unacceptable and problematic chancellor search, which was undemocratic and lacked student input. **Additionally, [the resolution highlighted Chancellor Robert’s continuous, brutal crackdowns on nonviolent civil disobedience and student activism](#)**. Given these concerns, as well as his ties to ultraconservative megadonors, his clear partisan agenda, and his total lack of relevant qualifications, the GPSG Senate calls upon Chancellor Roberts to resign from his post immediately.

The vote of no confidence for Provost Clemens also pointed to his brutalization and continued disproportionate response against student activists, as well as the secret recording of a UNC professor’s lecture and the usurping of the UNC Honor Court. Further, **[the resolution condemns Provost Clemens’ sponsorship of a white nationalist campus group, “Youth for Western Civilization.”](#)** GPSG Senate calls upon Provost Clemens to resign from his post immediately.

Chancellor Lee Roberts and Provost Chris Clemens represent the worst in academia: conservative ideologues who believe universities should serve the military-industrial complex. Instead, we believe student tuition should not fund violence and oppression, nor should it line the pockets of war profiteers. Students and faculty should not face continued discrimination, intimidation, and violence from their administration. In fact, the administration’s deployment of dozens of police officers to campus this week to intimidate students and suppress student activism, as well as the lockdowns of university buildings with little notice and the establishment of ID checkpoints, perfectly exemplifies the administration’s harmful actions that these resolutions condemn. Through this vote, the GPSG Senate recognizes that UNC deserves better than an openly authoritarian chancellor and provost; their resignation is a

much-needed step toward the appointment of leadership that fosters democracy, justice, and academic freedom.

Please find attached the text of the no-confidence resolutions that were passed.

Vote results:

Question	Count
On the question of 55-018 No Confidence Resolution for the Provost Chris Clemens" how do you vote?	
Yes	32
Abstain, and please provide a reason Write-In Answer	11
No	9
Question	Count
On the question of 55-019 "No Confidence Resolution for the Chancellor Lee Roberts" how do you vote?	
Yes	33
Abstain, and please provide a reason Write-In Answer	11
No	8