



**AGENDA**

**OPEN SESSION**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Guest Presentation**

*Jenna A. Robinson, President, James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal*

# Free Speech, Civic Education, and Academic Transparency at UNC-Chapel Hill

Jenna A. Robinson, PhD  
President,  
James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal

# Free Expression & Freshman Orientation

- 77% of UNC-Chapel Hill students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable at least on rare occasions.
- Depending on the topic, up to 72% of UNC-Chapel Hill students think that some speakers should not be allowed to speak on campus
- 45% of UNC-Chapel Hill students said that pro-Israeli groups should not be allowed to register as student organizations and receive student fees
- 42% of UNC-Chapel Hill students said that politically conservative student groups should not be allowed to register as student organizations and receive student fees
- Only 9% of students said it's "extremely clear" that the UNC-Chapel Hill administration supports free speech on campus.

*Source: 2024 College Free Speech Rankings by College Pulse/FIRE*



# Free Speech & Free Expression

The University embraces and strives to uphold the freedoms of speech and expression guaranteed by the First Amendment. In certain limited instances, the University may regulate time, place, and manner of expression, but the University does not limit speech based on content.

For questions or concerns, you may contact Jonathan Sauls, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, [jsauls@email.unc.edu](mailto:jsauls@email.unc.edu).

# Civics Education

A 2019 survey of college graduates revealed:

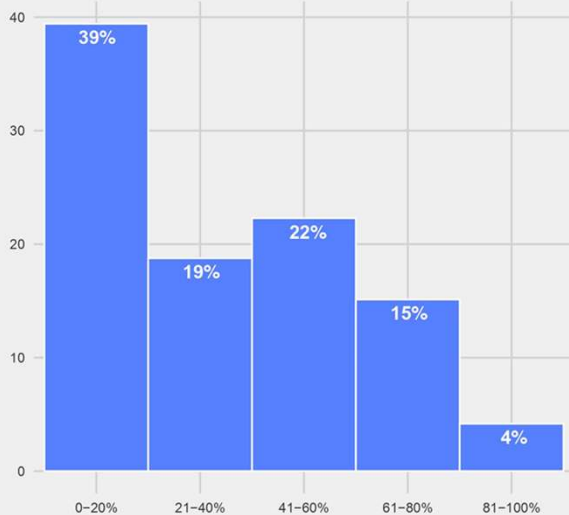
- 70% believe that Thomas Jefferson is the “father of the Constitution,”
- 39% believe that the president has constitutional authority to declare war
- 16% thought that the late Justice Antonin Scalia was the current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Over half did not know the term lengths of members of Congress
- 12 percent believe that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was the author of The New Deal.

*Source: The American Council of Trustees and Alumni*

# Civics Education

## Voting Coalitions on the Supreme Court

Thinking about the cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in the past year, what percent of cases were decided by a 9-0 or 8-1 vote of the Justices?



Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Survey 2023  
ASAPH Survey, Aug. 2023  
N=1482, MOE=±3.5%  
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Survey respondents were asked what percentage of Supreme Court cases in the past year they thought were decided by a 9-0 or 8-1 vote – a unanimous or near-unanimous vote. Respondents were invited to fill in a number between 0 and 100.

**Only a fifth of respondents (22%) offered answers that fell correctly in the 41%-60% range.**

# Academic Transparency



**79.6% of students**

Think universities should require professors to post syllabi for students during the course registration period



**64% of students**

Have "shopped" for courses because of inadequate information



**61% of students**

Have been disappointed because a course wasn't what they expected, based on the course description



**20% of students**

Have dropped a course because it was so different from their expectations based on course descriptions alone



**65% of faculty and administrators**

Agreed that universities should require professors to post syllabi for students during the course registration period



**55% of faculty and administrators**

Agreed that universities should make syllabi available to the public

Source: *The James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal (2009)*

# Thank you

Questions? Feel free to reach out:

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