

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: A Note About Recent Events on Campus
Date: Sunday, October 4, 2020 1:52:42 PM

Chancellor Blank,

I hope you are having a good weekend! My name is [REDACTED] and I am a 1L student at the Law School. I am writing in response to a few points that have been raised in your public conversations with student leaders in recent weeks.

First, I strongly believe that all classes should be moved online, and dorms should be depopulated to no more than one person per room for the foreseeable future. I understand that the university was already facing funding cuts prior to the COVID pandemic, and I truly can't imagine the financial stressors of running an institution this large in the best of times. Nevertheless, I think moving all classes online and emptying dorms would be the best move for the public health of not just the university, but Dane County and Wisconsin as a whole. What's more, I don't want to go back to classes in-person just to go online again at some other point during the semester – it's much easier to take an entire course in one mode. The fact of the matter is that UW-Madison is one of the most famous "party schools" in the nation if not the world, and the inevitable behavior of undergraduates must be taken into account under any reopening plan. Right now, that does not appear to be the case.

Also, I am dismayed that you have written off the prospect of defunding UWPD to any extent. Even in the best cases, police are primarily trained to identify criminal behavior, and detain and arrest the alleged offender(s). Even when they receive some training in e.g. mental health & crisis response, they will never be as good as an unarmed social worker whose primary weapon is de-escalation. I believe they have no business escorting students home for similar reasons. You have also described UWPD as "progressive," which I cannot imagine to be the case given that police officers are typically very conservative. The maintenance of a university police department does not make me feel safer, it makes me feel like money is being wasted on a redundant (and largely harmful) public agency rather than tuition relief or offsetting the university's budget deficit.

Lastly, I think it's frankly insulting and patronizing to call the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue a "non-starter" and refuse to even consider it. In my opinion, we Americans tend to uncritically celebrate presidents from earlier eras without properly considering the harm they wreaked, and that their legacies continue to wreak. In the context of UW-Madison, which erected an Abraham Lincoln statue in response to the large tracts of land granted to it upon his signing the Morrill Act, the statue specifically celebrates Lincoln's contributions to the white supremacist, genocidal ideology of Manifest Destiny. It is a brutal truth that the very land UW-Madison exists upon was stolen from the Indigenous people who had previously lived here for hundreds or thousands of years prior, on the basis of that ideology. Therefore, I do not think it's a big ask to remove a monument which celebrates not just an American president, but the specific actions he took with respect to redistribution of stolen Indigenous people's land. In fact, I believe removing these types of statues should be considered a bare-minimum standard in confronting America's brutal origins.

I apologize for the length of this email, but thank you very much for hearing me out. I know many other people who feel the same as I do, and I hope the university can develop more equitable solutions to the above issues in the future.

Best regards,



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Black Lives Matter at UW-Madison
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:42:13 AM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED], and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but also I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Carolyn Kassube](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: CHAMBERLIN ROCK
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 8:31:43 PM

my thoughts on the matter, The money could have been used to enhance the university instead of moving a rock based on a common term used in 1925. Also do you have a white student union or does UW Madison practice reverse racism by only having a black student union and Wunk Sheek, an indigenous student organization. If we always throw the difference into someones face how do we come to the point where we view each other as the same . Thank you for your time reading this

Back in in the day, according to Wikipedia, it was a common term and according to this article that 1925 article was the only time the name was used for the rock (Chamberlin Rock, named for former university president and geologist Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, was at least **once** referred to as a "n-----head" rock in a 1925 Wisconsin State Journal story. University historians have not found any other time that the slur was used.) Wikipedia says...The term was once widely used for all sorts of things, including nautical bollards[3][4] and consumer products including soap, chewing tobacco, stove polish, canned oysters and shrimp, golf tees, and toy cap pistols, among others. **It was often used for geographic features such as hills and rocks and geological objects such as geodes.**[5][6] The term appears in several US patents for mechanical devices prior to about 1950.[7][8] Languages other than English have used similar terms to describe chocolate-coated marshmallow treats.

Like · Reply · 56m · Edited



As this was done in 1925 and was a common term often used for geographic features such as hills and rocks and geological objects such as geodes. Was it necessary to spend \$50,000 to move it down the road???

Like · Reply · 41m



Also I am not a rasist but a realist I believe that if we do not move forward instead of living in the past nothing will get better. It happened, you can not change it, move on

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Mike Knetter](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Chamberlain Rock Removal - Most Disappointing
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 2:01:07 PM

[REDACTED], I greatly enjoyed our conversation this past Monday (8/2/21) as a follow-on on from our continuing discussions from the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

One of our topics was the status of the Chamberlin Rock which has a negative connotation at least to some individuals. The rock is large and black. The rock as you know is named in honor of the former head of the geology department and former chancellor of the University. The rock is/was part of glacial debris from terminal moraine left across southern Wisconsin (Madison in particular) during the ice age.

Supposedly back in the 1920's the rock was referred to by some as "n.... head", perhaps because of its color and shape. I wish to comment again that during my undergraduate and graduate school time at the University from 1962 to 1969 *not once* did I hear the Rock referred to as such, and I passed the Rock many times from my dorm at Adams Hall on my way to class. Additionally the proud history of the University of Wisconsin (founded 1848) includes that famed Camp Randall was a training facility for the Union army the Civil War. Some students over the schools history I am sure have held prejudicial racial views. That naturally is to be condemned.

I found the following current article re the status of the Rock. This \$50k solution vs, say a plaque on the Rock, describing its history and controversy, is most disappointing and in fact removes part of our valued history.

I continue to support the University of Wisconsin Foundation, but would like my input to go on record.

Sincerely,

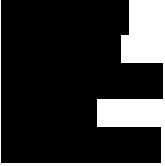
[REDACTED]

<https://www.channel3000.com/crews-begin-removing-chamberlin-rock-from-uw-madison-campus/>

From: [frank.pisut](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlain boulder
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 5:23:20 PM

Shame on u for bowing to two student groups and removing the Chamberlin boulder for some 1925 remark ! The fact that one group felt that the Lincoln statue should be removed tells you how ignorant these people are of our history!

Frank Pisut



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Chamberlin Rock alternative
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 6:51:33 AM

Dear [REDACTED] and Chancellor Blank,

I am writing today out of respect and hoping to participate in a dialogue about some of the proposals I read of in the newspaper. Let me first be forthright and say that I am a white male and fully agree that I reap the benefits of white privilege. I cannot begin to pretend I know what it feels like to experience the life of a person of color. I am ashamed of the indignities and suffering that my Caucasian ancestors have laid upon all other races. I am also saddened that there continues to be injustices and racial bias every day in this world.

So it is with my own naivety that I am writing the Black Student Union to reach out and see if there are alternate solutions that could be implemented for many of the reactions I read about.

The proposed move of the Chamberlin Rock is what ultimately prompted my email today. Yes, the university could spend \$30,000 to \$75,000 to hide the past transgressions associated with this rock... but isn't that a bit like burying one's head in the sand? Moving the rock will not erase history, nor will pretending it never existed solve current racial tensions, will it? Could the University spend those very funds, up to \$75,000 or more, to create a memorial to all black citizens. A memorial placed atop the rock, signifying that the black community will rise higher and overcome these injustices. A memorial that educates all and calls out the injustice to remind us citizens...especially the white population...that racial injustices of all kinds are never acceptable. I believe any monument would act as a solemn reminder of our past, a reminder to treat all with respect, a reminder that socially accepted terminology is a large contributing factor to racial injustice. Fostering the reaction of, 'I can't believe horrible phrases like that were used' is far more impactful and educational than pretending it never happened.

So I ask, isn't it better to acknowledge the historic injustices and so that we may never repeat them. Or, should we spend \$75,000 to bury and forget them...then risk repeating history yet again? Seems to me Wisconsin will be losing an incredible teaching opportunity on this campus of higher learning and wasting a lot of money in the process.

There are so many ways that these funds could be used to better the cause of minorities at the University....better than paying to move or bury a rock. If not a memorial, how about a scholarship or grant annuity instead?

With my sincerest respect,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock and Lincoln's statue
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 3:32:01 PM

Madam Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

As a graduate of University Wisconsin Madison, I had to reach out to you and express my opinion.

The talk about removal of University and Wisconsin landmarks. Specifically, Chamberlin Rock and Lincoln's statue.

The thought that Chamberlin Rock is racist is ridiculous. The plaque is about a bolder traveling from Canada via a glacier and a geologist and university president Thomas Chamberlin. Historical or unofficial nicknames are meaningless.

Even more ridiculous is the idea that Lincoln should be removed. A man who lived and really died for his fight and success in ending slavery in the United States. The man that land granted University of Wisconsin.

I think you should announce that Lincoln's statue and Chamberlin rock will not be removed. And you will insure none of these landmarks and memorial will be remove while you are Chancellor.

Thank you for your time,

Kenneth Olson
Graduate UW-Madison 1980

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:02:29 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

Moving Chamberlin Rock is a decision bankrupt of moral and institutional leadership. It rights no active wrong, in a fit of self-abnegation it withdraws recognition of Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, who helped this University attain greatness, it wastes between \$30,000 and \$75,000 (to move a rock?!) and it does nothing to provide support for any student of color. It is tokenism at its worst.

I don't think any aspect of the above decision makes a positive impression on people. It reflects badly on groups who support it, and on you, the Chancellor, for succumbing to such an empty proposal. Surely, a constructive alternative to this folly can be created - a program with genuine, substantive benefits and recognitions for students of color, funded, for a start, with money that would otherwise be showered on moving a rock.

Moving Chamberlin Rock is a decision made from anger. The anger is justified, the remedy isn't.

[REDACTED]

From: [Bob Elmer](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:09:43 AM

Very sorry to learn that you caved to pressure. How about some courageous leadership coming from your office in place of weakness. Reading your bio on the Chancellor's website, you don't seem to be bringing the talents you describe to decisions like this. You are a disappointment.

Robert Elmer

From: [Deb's Mail](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [Deb's Mail](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:17:36 AM

Dear Sir/Madam:

I recently read about the removal of a 2-billion-year-old boulder from your campus based on a journalist's description of the rock IN THE 1920s. I guess now if anyone complains about anything, it is considered "racist," or "homophobic," or "transphobic"...I could go on forever. Perhaps we should just learn from our mistakes and shortcomings during our history instead of wiping out our entire past. That boulder rested peacefully in the earth for 2 billion years. Too bad it wasn't just left there instead of being the source of your ridicule.

Frankly, I am saddened and disgusted that our institutions of higher learning have fostered and produced such a thin-skinned generation that they are offended by everything in this world. I am grateful that my children didn't attend any school such as yours that must bow to the whim of every special interest group; they learned solid values from hard work, and from being part of a diverse real-world community they learned about acceptance and tolerance; that we learn from history so it is not repeated. Too bad our institutions don't foster those beliefs anymore. It is so sad what our country has become, partially from turning out graduates who are offended by everything. So, so sad

Most sincerely,
Debra Hernandez

From: [Betty Franklin](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:28:17 PM

So a rock that's two billion years old has to be removed because of a couple of decades of history? What in the world are you teaching your students? How to see the bigger picture? How to respect history despite dark times? How to respect nature - which has been here long before us and will be here long after we're gone?

No. You're instead teaching them that if they whine about "injustice" the world will cave into their hurt feelings.

Unbelievable.

Betty Franklin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:18:51 AM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

> I disagree with the removal of Chamberlin Rock from the UW Madison Campus. The rock was not racist. Mr Chamberlin was not racist. You approved removal of the rock because of one ignorant reference made about it in the Wisconsin State Journal almost 100 years ago. The rock has geologic significance but you obviously didn't take that into consideration. Nobody looked at the rock as racist until a few black students dug up the 1925 WSJ article and decided hey, we don't care why the rock is really here, it has to go. Removal of the rock won't help stop racism, actions like it only makes racism worse. It appears that you sacrificed Chamberlin Rock to the Black Student Union without public input in order to take pressure off their demands to remove Lincoln. That's not the way decisions should be made at a public university.

Martin Burkholder

>

Sent from my iPad

From: [Erick Bestland](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:12:26 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank or Staff who reads this,

I was a Geology major back in the 1980's (class of 82) and remember fondly Chamberline rock. I never heard it referred to with any racist name. We used to go up there and look at it as an example of a glacial erratic. It is clearly not the fault of the glacier that put the rock there, or the rock itself that someone back in the 1920's referred to it in such a way. I wonder if any Native Americans were consulted as to the removal of this special rock. It was special to me and some of my geology friends and it is not a good thing to have it removed. Someone could have had a ceremony at the rock where copies of the offending journal were burned and the rock symbolically renamed, perhaps with some local Native American name.

Be brave, stand up and be reasonable!

Dr Erick A. Bestland
Associate Professor of Geoscience
Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide



From: [jon.grand](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022 10:12:34 AM

I read with interest the former Chancellor's discussion of the decision to remove the Chamberlin Rock. One of the things that has always impressed me as an alum, is the UW's commitment to the ideal expressed on the plaque affixed to Bascom Hall. Every student knows the phrase "sifting and winnowing." But what is important is the story behind the phrase. The Regents understood that the professor and his teaching offended the sensibilities of a number of people and groups. The Regents could have taken the easy path and simply removed the errant professor. Not only did they not do so, they set forth an enduring statement in defense of academic freedom, tolerance for different viewpoints, and a refusal to bow to pressures that would hinder either. They did not choose to move the professor to some out of the way campus.

The racial slur applied to the rock was, as far as I can learn a single event. But that same slur was often applied to any dark colored rock. It is part of our sad history that such a comment was not only in common use but was also seen as acceptable. Unfortunately, similar racial slurs continue to be used by segments of our population. Unfortunately, there will always be bigotry and racism. Its targets are not limited to Afro-Americans, or Native Americans, or Jews, or Christians, or Asians. In humanity's long history, no group has been spared the sting of discrimination. One of the benefits of a great university is to learn the lessons from the past, and the impacts of those lessons on the present. We are not born hating or fearing those who are different from ourselves. It is learned. Unlearning is difficult if not impossible. The question for us all is why are these things taught? It occurs to me that the rock could have been removed for a number of other reasons. For example, religious fundamentalists might have found the rock offensive as a symbol that refutes the literal reading of the Bible. Certainly the rock represents a moment in geologic time that does not fit into the seven days of creation. Indeed, the rock was deposited before any of us were here.

But as the chancellor notes, we give inanimate things symbolic importance both positive and negative. The statue of Abraham Lincoln which dominates Bascom Hill embodies both. He preserved the Union but argued for the continuation of slavery where it had been allowed. Should his statue be removed? He also ordered the hanging of a number of Native Americans when they rebelled. Should his statue be removed. I would argue that, by the Chancellor's logic, it should be removed. It, of course will not be. But my question is how is it different from the rock?

Finally, I would like to understand the process that resulted in the rock's removal. The Chancellor gives a brief outline of the consultations but I am interested in how the comments and concerns of various groups were evaluated, incorporated, or rejected. From the Chancellor's note, the critical factor seems to have been the single application of a racial slur to the rock. How were the concerns of the stakeholders weighed against that single statement. In short, I would appreciate as much detail on the process as possible. I look forward to your response. Jon Grand

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:16:24 AM

We grew up in this area, earned degrees at UW-Madison, and never heard about the Chamberlin Rock or the racial slur associated with it—until now.

We support anti-racist efforts such as removing memorials to confederate heroes, but moving a blameless ancient rock would be foolish. Instead, the University should offer to spend a like amount of money on *constructive* actions like tuition scholarships, campus and/or community education, multicultural programming, etc.

We urge you to keep this issue in perspective and not endorse removing an inanimate object that is not inherently racist.

Sincerely,

Ginny White, BA 1977, MA 1996
Larry White, MS 1977

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 10:03:23 AM

Dr. Blank

I was surprised to learn that someone who was disturbed about an obscure racial reference made about the Chamberlin Rock almost one hundred years ago (and evidently not repeated since), has secured campus support to remove it from campus. I am even more surprised to learn that you support the idea that the rock represents a racial slur to the Madison campus and should be removed. If you support moving the rock because someone is falsely offended by its presence, I wonder if you also are going to change the name of South Hall, not because it is south of North Hall but because it honors the Civil War "South" and its support of slavery?

Really Chancellor, I am amazed that you could honestly support either action. In the case of the large glacial erratic which honors a former University President whose contributions to science are still held in high regard, how is it possible to concede that there could be any racial connotation? If indeed you think that a piece of rock transported hundreds of miles by glaciers ten thousand years ago causes 2020 racial concern, you and the University will become objects of a variety of insults and hilarious jokes which will not be soon forgotten. I suspect that some late night comedian will probably have a real field day with this ridiculous story and will make fun of the University if it hasn't already done so.

As one who has had a rich association with the University, I suggest that you tell those who imagine Chamberlin Rock is a racial slur, to, in today's terminology, suck it up, because Chamberlin Rock has no connection to any racial or social injustice whether some 20th Century newspaper columnist would agree or not. I was a faculty member for thirty six years including five years as Associate Dean of L&S and never imagined that my University would tolerate such nonsense as you are dealing with in order to be politically correct. Please give the matter considerably more thought and seek consultation with rational human beings who still must exist on campus before associating with any idea that a ten thousand year old glacial erratic has a racial background.

David L. Clark

From: ["Meredith Mcglone" via stakeholders](#)
To: [Stakeholders](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:32:41 AM

Good morning,

As you may have seen in [the State Journal](#), Chancellor Blank yesterday accepted the recommendation of the Campus Planning Committee to move Chamberlin Rock off university property due to its association with a racial slur.

Here is a statement you're welcome to use:

In November, the Campus Planning Committee recommended removing Chamberlin Rock due to its association with a racial slur. Leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and Wunk Sheek testified about the harm this has caused to Black members of the campus community, past and present. The committee also heard testimony about the rock's importance to education and research as a rare, extremely large glacial erratic that is estimated to be more than 2 billion years old.

Chancellor Blank accepted the committee's recommendation that the rock be moved off campus. Removing the rock as a monument in a prominent location prevents further harm to our community while preserving the rock's educational and research value for current and future scholars.

UW–Madison will now have conversations with various parties about their interest in hosting the rock on property on or near the National Park Service's Ice Age Scenic Trail.

"I commend WBSU for their leadership and commitment to this issue and for their collaboration with Wunk Sheek and university leaders to address the rock's removal from a Native American burial site," says Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori Reesor. "Their voices and experiences led to discussions and deep reflection that otherwise may not have happened. There were multiple stakeholders in the discussion and the final outcome required compromise. I'm grateful to WBSU and Wunk Sheek student leaders for their courage and influence to bring about this change."

If you have questions, please let me know.

Best,
Meredith

From: [Tim Fohl](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 3:04:48 PM

Dear Dr. Blank,

I saw a news item to the effect that a large rock called Chamberlin Rock is to be removed on the vague grounds that it was in the distant past once called a race based name. I think this should be reconsidered after consultation with Indian tribes in the area. We have numerous similar rocks in New England. They are often associated with and are part of Indian ceremonial places. I got the impression that there are some mounds near the rock which further suggests that the area is of ceremonial importance.

I have spent the last 15 years working with tribal historic preservation offices to identify and characterize Indian ceremonial structures and places. I can probably put you in touch with qualified Indian advisors through my New England contacts.

Best regards,
Tim Fohl

Timothy Fohl
 (Technology Integration Group, Inc.)

From: [Jim](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 9:19:06 AM

Last I checked a rock was an inanimate object. It does not hate, it does not discriminate, it does not hurl itself at people based on the color of their skin or their religion of choice or their political persuasion, it cannot be woke. It takes humans to do those things.

It also takes humans to make a decision to blame the rock and remove it. Out of sight out of mind? It is a pointless and knee jerk "solution" to a problem in which A ROCK is blameless.

This is an embarrassing move by the UW administration that will do nothing to combat racism, to placate any offended persons, or serve to lead a positive effort of any type. Perhaps to offend the Chamberlin descendants and the students he led and/or inspired in the field of is one outcome.

I know for certain this action does disappoint me, and that this course of action is the decision making that the University of Wisconsin is focusing on.

James Mintz
Class of 1982

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 6:22:54 AM

Chancellor Blank,

Thank you for removing the offensive Chamberlin Rock from Observatory Hill. All these years I had walked or driven by this rock, thinking it was an inanimate geological formation. Instead I now know that it was a living, breathing relic of racism.

Please have your Geology Department scour campus to perform a sifting and winnowing of similar rocks that the glacier may have left behind.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor; Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:07:26 PM

As a now retired graduate of UW Madison, I walked by that rock many times both as a student and on visits & walks when returning to campus. I don't have a problem with the rock being moved but in today's world it seems like the loudest voices are more important than the majority of voices. And that's fine in this case.

What concerns me is this continuous call to eliminate certain historical symbols rather than use them to better educate society about past injustices in a continuation to improve society. Chamberlin Rock? Yes, move it and put up a different historical marker to honor the former university president.

However, as educators at one of our country's greatest universities please use this opportunity to make a better change for the future. Please ask those representing Wisconsin Black Student Union and Wunk Sheek what their thoughts are regarding lyrics in today's rap and hip hop songs recorded by black artists? Since these songs regularly use the "N" word as well as other very vulgar and derogatory terms, how can the mere sight of a rock be a concern regarding a historical symbol of the "N" word yet using the "N" word in X-rated songs is OK? Please ask these organizations to help make the future better by showing the same concern regarding vulgar music and the impression it creates when young people listening to this music.

I was in Minneapolis a couple years ago and I was asked to join my sons, nieces & nephews at a bar the night before a family wedding. A person next to our group was telling a story about how disgusted he was that their friend used the "N" word only he said the actual word. A few black young people had just left the dance floor and overheard the word being said and angrily confronted the person. It was all worked out after some explanation but here was the problem -- that group had just finished dancing and singing to a vulgar rap song that used the "N" word continuously within the song. Can you have it both ways?

A large dark rock used to be referred to as a "N" Head (yes it should be removed) because it's a daily reminder of the "N" word yet let's crank up the rap song that uses the "N" word repeatedly. This sounds like a great educational moment so hopefully you can encourage WBSU and Wunk Sheek to use their influence to also create a better example for future generations.

Happy New Year!

Gregg Burmeister

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [REDACTED] [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Charles Hoslet](#); [UW-Madison Provost](#); [Nancy Lynch](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 12:07:17 AM

I learned today of the removal of Chamberlin Rock that took place on the Madison campus. Like so many people on Facebook, I am dumbfounded as to why anyone would even think about moving something of such historical significance. A small group of students were offended by its nickname that dates back to the 1920s. Is that why you chose to cater to some snowflakes? That is more offensive than the nickname.

Those who wish to destroy this country see racism everywhere, except under their own noses. It is their excuse for acting like spoiled brats, who run through Grandmother's house and break all the lamps, jump on all the beds, throw the fine china on the floor, hurl spitballs at the portraits on the walls, and cut all of Grandmother's hybrid tea roses. The University of Wisconsin is showing weakness in your bowing to Marxists who breed anarchy. Trust me. Those students who were complaining are true Marxists.

I am telling people to stop supporting the University of Wisconsin. You owe an apology to the people of Wisconsin specifically, as well as the people of the United States, for your inability to handle the whiners. You are setting a very poor example of what a major university should be doing to educate the impressionable.

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Clark
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Kenneth Latimer](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock.
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 11:29:12 AM

Dear Chancellor Blank. As a loyal UW grad (B.S. 1966) and UW supporter since my graduation, I was concerned to see the administration appease a small but vocal element of the student body and remove the “rock” from its long-standing location at a cost of \$50,000. Couldn’t that money have been put to better use?

While a student and as a visitor, I have walked by that rock many times and never viewed it as racist. To my understanding, no one has accused Chamberlin of being a racist. From what I have read, it appears the “problem” was from a newspaper article in 1925 which used a then common phrase to describe the rock which today would be deemed offensive by some. Moving the rock to another location should not satisfy this group as it would still be “racist”. Perhaps it should have been destroyed. This appeasement will merely embolden these “activists” to demand other actions such as removal of the Lincoln statute from Bascom Hill. I know this demand has been made and refused but rest assured, it will come back again. Perhaps a name change for Camp Randall will be next because it is located on what had been an army base during the Civil War. The University is located on land previously occupied by Native Americans

What other changes will be demanded? This whole thing is an example of the squeaky wheel getting the oil. This is not a proud day for the University and reflects poorly upon it

Very truly yours
Kenneth Latimer

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tom Harper](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 6:19:13 PM

Please do not succumb to the idiocy of expending public resources to move Chamberlin Rock!

Regards,

Tom Harper-1980

From: [John Sinz](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin rock removal
Date: Sunday, August 8, 2021 2:15:15 PM

There is no denying it.
You people are idiots.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin rock
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:00:51 AM

I am a UW alumnus. In the 1960s I participated in Civil Rights protests there. I have been active my whole life in political activism for equal rights for all. Removing the rock seems like a stupid waste of short funds. Should we demolish buildings where racism was promoted in the past? Use the funds to fight racism on campus. Keep the damn rock where it is.

Sincerely,

James R Fortier

Class of 1970

Member of 1st Biocore class

From: [Richard Ziemann](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin rock
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 8:14:09 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank: In response to a question of mine, WAA told me that Chamberlin rock was moved because of “the harm its presence had caused to Black members of the campus community, past and present “.

I would like you to tell me about the harm that it caused. Please be specific. When I graduated in 1966, I was completely unaware of the evil embodied by this rock. I don’t know whether the fault for that belongs to me or to the University of Wisconsin.

Richard Ziemann ‘66

Richard Ziemann

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Chamberlin rock
Date: Monday, December 7, 2020 1:15:47 PM

I am a '70 grad and [REDACTED]. Never have I heard any disparaging racial terms in connection with this monument. I have gone out of my way to point out to my children this valuable piece of Wisconsin's glacial history. Since it sounds like at least moving it is assured, I am urging you not to destroy it. Bigotry that occurred nearly 100 years ago does not justify this "solution". Thank you.

George Silverwood

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Concerned Parent
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:07:08 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank:

Today I received my weekly update from Michael Knetter in which he lamented the University's budget concerns and asked us to contribute or write legislators to provide more tax dollars. This request reminded me of an issue that I read about last fall: the Chamberlin Rock. I want to express my extreme disappointment in your decision to spend any resources (whatever the source) on the removal or destruction of the rock. Without commenting on the validity of the students' complaints about the rock, I would have expected the University to reject all non-essential expenditures and focus ALL of its resources (time and treasure) on getting our students entirely back in the classrooms. Your decision conveys a lack of seriousness about the University's primary mission, education. I doubt I am the only tuition-paying parent who is questioning the value of the online classes that the University is currently offering and feeling aggrieved by Mr. Knetter's requests for financial support when you are choosing to spend money in this manner.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [Matthew Mayrl](#)
To: excomm@lists.wisc.edu
Cc: [Jennifer L Noyes](#)
Subject: EC Tomorrow
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:10:41 PM
Attachments: [Ch Adv Comm agenda Nov2020.docx](#)

Colleagues,

A couple notes on agenda for tomorrow. The Chancellor has a conflicting Board meeting and Karl will be chairing the CPC meeting. We have two agenda items I'm hoping to cover:

1. Spring planning – Jennifer Noyes will join us to give a brief overview of how we're planning to organize our spring planning efforts.
2. Chancellor's Advisory Council meeting – See attached draft agenda. As a reminder we're planning to meet during the afternoon of 11/4. I wanted everyone to see the proposed agenda that I anticipate sending out tomorrow and reconfirm that appropriate EC members can join during relevant agenda items.

Talk tomorrow at 9,
Matt

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Chancellor's Advisory Committee
Annotated Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

Contact: Matt Mayrl – matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu – [REDACTED] (c)

To the Chancellor's Advisory Committee:

I'm excited to meet with you for the Fall 2020 Advisory Committee meeting. We've had an eventful semester in Madison, operating amid a global pandemic and a swell of activism. And, it may become even more eventful, with this meeting falling one day after Election Day. Although I would much prefer to visit with you in person at Olin House, we will meet virtually and for an abbreviated time, as we did in the spring. We'll focus our time on three topics:

- **COVID-19 Response and Future Planning:** Over the late spring and summer, UW-Madison prepared intensely for fall semester. Large courses were moved online, testing capacity was built, and new public health measures were put in place. By the time we meet, we'll be just three weeks from Thanksgiving when all instruction will move online, and we're already beginning to plan for the spring semester. We'll review how fall semester went and update you on what we're planning for spring 2021. We'll also say a little about the budget challenges COVID has created and how we are coping with them. Joining us for this conversation will be: Karl Scholz (Provost), Laurent Heller (VCFA), Matt Mayrl (Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer), Jake Baggot (Executive Director, University Health Services), and Lori Reesor (VC Student Affairs).
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- **The State of Activism on Campus:** This has been one of the most lively periods of activism we've experienced on campus during my seven years as Chancellor. As is typically the case, this is in part due to external events (calls for racial justice and

policing reform), broader social forces (polarization in our politics and pandemic response), and changes in relationships with key constituencies (local government officials and shared governance leadership). This has been a challenge as these activities have been more angry and aggressive than in the recent past. I want your help in thinking about our response to this. Joining us for this conversation will be: Lori Reesor (VC Student Affairs), Matt Mayrl (Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer), Cheryl Gittens (Interim Chief Diversity Officer) and Charlie Hoslet, (Vice Chancellor for University Relations).

I've also planned for an executive session to close our meeting. I'm looking forward to hearing your reactions to what we're doing and your creative ideas about how to make additional progress.

In lieu of a large number of read aheads for this meeting, I'd ask each of you to review my recent [State of the University address to the Faculty Senate](#).

I look forward to talking with you all very soon.

Becky

Agenda

1:00-2:00 COVID-19 Response and Future Planning

I want to review how the fall semester has unfolded and lay out our operational plans for the spring semester. While many elements of our fall semester worked as intended, we are still planning for major changes in the spring to further enhance our ability to operate safely amid this virus. At the same time as we are dealing with COVID issues, we are also dealing with budget challenges and will be implementing additional furloughs and budget cuts over the spring.

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- Campus anticipates a greatly expanded testing program for spring 2020, which will be more intrusive and compulsory, under which all students both on and off campus will be tested twice weekly and all staff will be tested weekly. Do you have recommendations for how we persuade people of the importance of participation in this program?
- While we have avoided many of the worst possible scenarios for financial impact from COVID, we still face significant losses, both one-time and ongoing. I'll share our current thinking about how we will stabilize our budget picture, with a mix of one-time personnel actions (furloughs) and ongoing base budget adjustments. We're trying to do these base adjustments in a targeted, strategic way which is always a challenge amid our decentralized structure. I'd like your feedback on our budget plans and suggestions for how to ensure we make the 'right' cuts across campus.
- As you've been looking at how the world has changed due to COVID, how do you think this will affect universities like UW once we emerge from the immediate crisis? We're trying to think about how we can come out of this in a stronger position among our peers, and how we want to operate differently post-COVID. Do you have any suggestion for new opportunities that might present themselves?

2:00-2:45 Racial Equity and Justice on Campus

The imperative for large institutions like UW-Madison to enhance their own diversity and advance racial justice has never been clearer than in the past six months. While there is always more to be done, I want to make sure your aware of our progress on several fronts:

1. Recruiting and retaining a talented and diverse class
2. Enhancing the diversity of our faculty

3. Providing training experiences for our students and employees around diversity and racial justice
4. Advancing racial equity in campus policing
5. Devoting new resources to improve campus climate

Following this brief overview, I'd like your feedback on the following questions:

- We are at a moment in time when our (white) staff, faculty and students are probably more open and interested in conversations about racial justice than at any recent time in history. How do we best capitalize on this? What type of discussion/training/awareness programs have you seen work effectively in your organizations?
- We have made more progress on faculty diversity and student diversity than on staff diversity. We hire more of our staff locally (a less diverse labor market) and retention is hard given our existing staff are very nondiverse in many areas. What advice or best practices do you have for increasing staff diversity in hiring and retention?
- We have a number of very active student groups on campus. A very vocal group has chosen to focus on large symbolic gestures (defund UW police or remove the Lincoln statue.) How do we deal with these groups (who are largely not interested in compromise) while continuing to engage more and more people on the issues we believe are most important for long-term change (diversity among students and faculty, campus culture, spaces and programming for student identity groups, etc.)?

2:45-3:15 The State of Activism on Campus

Throughout the summer and fall, my executive team has been challenged to respond a rising tide of activism – and activism that is angrier and more aggressive than we've seen in the recent past. A short list of topics that have been focuses of activism includes:

- Our Smart Restart/COVID operational plans;
- Calls for the removal of campus statues/monuments;
- Policing reform and divestment;
- Additional investments in diversity and inclusion programming;
- The historical relationship of UW Native American tribes, particularly its land-grant history;
- Our tuition/fee structure

I want to ensure you all are aware of these trends on campus. I suspect that following the election, we will see both a renewed passion around many of these issues and the possible emergence of additional ones.

I'd like your feedback on the following questions:

- We need to communicate what we are doing and why as broadly as possible to maintain support among staff, faculty and students on campus who are currently not engaged in this activism; we would like to keep the more angry groups of activists as small and localized as possible. Do you have advice?
- Some of the tactics, social media posts, and interpersonal behavior of activists have become more intrusive and uncivil. Our response has been to ignore/not respond to this. Is this the right tactic?

3:15-3:30 Executive Session

This is an opportunity for the Advisory Committee to meet with just me. It's a good time for questions and discussion of any issues the Committee is concerned about.

3:30 Adjourn

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Jessica Arp](#)
Subject: FW: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:07:50 PM

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/25/20, 8:26 PM, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As an alumni and a member of the CJS Board of Visitors, I implore you to stand your ground and resist the efforts to remove our beloved statue.

Personally I am totally in favor of the removal of Confederate or racist statues and memorials wherever they stand.

President Lincoln may be the greatest American of them all.

It saddens me that the memorial was conceived or created by an unacceptable individual, but Old Abe isn't to blame for that.

You have done an absolutely outstanding job of administering and representing our great University. Thank you.

Black Lives Matter.

On Wisconsin.

Richard Roberts, B.S. 1966

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: FW: Admissions Officer
Date: Friday, August 13, 2021 2:02:35 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 8/11/2021 2:15 AM
To: onwisconsin@admissions.wisc.edu
Subject: Admissions Officer

?

Dear Admissions Officer,

My granddaughter has listed UW-Madison as one of her choices for attending in 2022 to study Mathematics. She is a brilliant young woman who has been in maths AP classes since seventh grade and has excelled in all of her STEM classes. She will graduate early (May 2022) at the age of sixteen from high school.

Since my wife and I shall be footing the bill for her education, which she is well aware, she realizes we do have some input into the college or university that she selects to attend. In all honesty, we had hoped she would apply for a students visa, live with us here in [REDACTED] and attend [REDACTED] for her studies.

After reading a news article regarding your decision to remove Chamberlin Rock from campus, which we have sent her, she understands our rationale of removing UW-Madison from her desired list as she requires an academic education taught by sound professors. A higher learning institution that caters to the woke social justice warrior-children; an institution that has lost its focus on an academic education, is not the path she or we desire her to take.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



ref:_00D1I2KqwO._5003sTmOzN:ref

From: [Matthew Mayrl](#)
To: execcomm@lists.wisc.edu
Cc: [Jake Baggott](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda - Fall 2020 Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 1:36:17 PM
Attachments: [Ch Adv Comm agenda Nov2020.pdf](#)
[Chancellor's Advisory Council - Fall 2020 \(1\).xlsx](#)

Colleagues,

Heading into the weekend, I wanted to recirculate the agenda for Wednesday's Advisory Council meeting and give a sense of how I imagine the discussions going. The list of topics and participants is below:

- **1:00-2:00pm COVID-19 Response and Future Planning:** Over the late spring and summer, UW- Madison prepared intensely for fall semester. Large courses were moved online, testing capacity was built, and new public health measures were put in place. By the time we meet, we'll be just three weeks from Thanksgiving when all instruction will move online, and we're already beginning to plan for the spring semester. We'll review how fall semester went and update you on what we're planning for spring 2021. We'll also say a little about the budget challenges COVID has created and how we are coping with them. Joining us for this conversation will be: Karl Scholz (Provost), Laurent Heller (VCFA), Matt Mayrl (Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer), Jake Baggott (Executive Director, University Health Services), and Lori Reesor (VC Student Affairs).
- **2:00-2:45pm Racial Equity and Justice on Campus:** The killing of George Floyd in May ignited renewed calls for each person, leadership team and organization to reevaluate their commitment to fighting racism and advancing social justice. In July, I announced our plans for the 2021 academic year in response to these issues and recently provided an update on our progress. I want to give you the most current updates on these plans, as well as get your input on what else we can be doing. Joining us for this conversation will be: Cheryl Gittens (Interim Chief Diversity Officer), Lori Reesor (VC Student Affairs), Matt Mayrl (Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer), and Karl Scholz (Provost).
- **2:45-3:15pm The State of Activism on Campus:** This has been one of the most lively periods of activism we've experienced on campus during my seven years as Chancellor. As is typically the case, this is in part due to external events (calls for racial justice and policing reform), broader social forces (polarization in our politics and pandemic response), and changes in relationships with key constituencies (local government officials and shared governance leadership). This has been a challenge as these activities have been more angry and aggressive than in the recent past. I want your help in thinking about our response to this. Joining us for this conversation will be: Lori Reesor (VC Student Affairs), Matt Mayrl (Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer), Cheryl Gittens (Interim Chief Diversity Officer) and Charlie Hoslet, (Vice Chancellor for University Relations).

In each section, the Chancellor will provide a summary of the issue, status updates, and tee up questions for discussion. Those listed as other participants should be available to provide additional

context on topics within your areas (e.g. Laurent asked to add additional information on the budget implications of COVID). However, you do not need to prepare any formal presentation. Our past experience has been that Advisory Council members will come with many questions, and we will try to reserve a large portion of the allotted time for Q/A.

Please let me know if you have any questions in advance of the meeting. I've attached here a roster of attendees as well so you're aware of who will be joining the call.

Best,
Matt

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 1:12 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Cc: Chancellor's Assistant UW-Madison <assistant@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: Agenda - Fall 2020 Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting

Chancellor's Advisory Council members,

Please see attached here the agenda for our meeting on November 4th. We are looking forward to engaging in this discussion with you and a calendar invite with details for our WebEx session will be forthcoming shortly.

Sincerely,
Matt

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 at 4:09 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>

Cc: Chancellor's Assistant UW-Madison <assistant@chancellor.wisc.edu>

Subject: Fall 2020 Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting -

Hello all,

Thanks for your patience as we've worked to schedule the Fall 2020 Chancellor's Advisory Committee meeting. I'm please to confirm the following date and time:

Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 4

1:00-3:30pm

* to be held virtual, with details to follow *

Thanks everyone and have a great weekend!

Matt

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 10:40 AM

To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>

Cc: Chancellor's Assistant UW-Madison <assistant@chancellor.wisc.edu>

Subject: Scheduling the Fall 2020 Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting

Greetings Advisory Council members,

We are just one day away from the start of fall semester unlike any other in Madison! Our summer has been packed with preparations for our Smart Restart effort and we are excited to be welcoming a good number of students back to campus.

I'm writing to begin the process of scheduling our Fall 2020 meeting. We will meet virtually this fall, as we did in the spring, so our meeting times (2.5 hours) will be a bit shorter than typical. If you can please respond and let me know which of the following dates/times work for you, I would greatly appreciate it.

Of note, we will be welcoming a new member to our fall meeting - Regent Karen Walsh, who is serving as UW-Madison's Regent 'buddy' this year along with Tracey Klein and Carolyn Stanford Taylor. Welcome Karen!

Friday, October 30

8:00-10:30am

Friday, October 30

1:00-3:30pm

Monday, November 2

8:00-10:30am

Wednesday, November 4

1:00-3:30pm

Friday, November 6

8:00-10:30am

Sincerely,

Matt

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Chancellor's Advisory Committee
Annotated Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

Contact: Matt Mayrl – matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu – [REDACTED] (c)

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3:15-3:30 Executive Session

This is an opportunity for the Advisory Committee to meet with just me. It's a good time for questions and discussion of any issues the Committee is concerned about.

3:30 Adjourn

RSVP Chancellor's Advisory Council - Fall 2019

	Name	Title	Company
Y	Stephen Bennett	Former CEO	Intuit
N	Tom Falk	Former Chairman and CEO	Kimberly-Clark
Y	Kevin Conroy	President/CEO	Exact Sciences
Y	Patrick Thiele	Former CEO	PartnerRE Ltd.
Y	Shel Lubar	Founder/Chairman	Lubar & Company
Y	George Hamel	Owner	Hamel Family Wines
Y	John Morgridge	Chairman Emeritus	Cisco Systems, Inc.
Y	Tashia Morgridge	Teacher	
Y	Signe Ostby	Founder	Software Publishing Company
N	Jack Salzwedel	CEO	American Family Insurance
Y	Susan Engeleiter	CEO	Data Recognition Corporation
?	Elzie Higginbottom	President	East Lake Management and Develo
Y	Carolyn Stanford Taylor	Regent	UW System
Y	Tracey Klein	Regent	UW System
Y	Andrew Petersen	Regent	UW System
Y	Karen Walsh	Regent	UW System
13			
	Rebecca Blank	Chancellor	UW-Madison
	Karl Scholz	Provost	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Steve Ackerman	Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Educ	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Charles Hoslet	Vice Chancellor for University Relations	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Laurent Heller	Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Mike Knetter	President/CEO, UW Foundation	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Lori Reesor	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Cheryl Gittens	Interim Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Raymond Taffora	Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs	Chancellor's Executive Committee
	Matthew Mayrl	Chancellor's Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer	Chancellor's Executive Committee

From: [Tod Pritchard](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock Donor feedback
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:52:55 PM

Forwarding per John Lucas request... Tod

Tod Pritchard

Director, Media and Public Relations

Wisconsin Foundation & Alumni Association

1848 University Avenue | Madison, Wisconsin 53726

608-609-5217

SUPPORTUW.ORG | UWALUMNI.COM

From: Kevin Mulcahy <Kevin.Mulcahy@supportuw.org>

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:48 PM

To: Tod Pritchard <Tod.Pritchard@supportuw.org>

Subject: Chamberlin Rock Donor feedback

Hi Tod,

The email below was sent to the Gifts Services mailbox over the weekend. Is there a point person to follow up? The donor does not have an assigned development contact at WFAA.

Thank you,

Kevin

Kevin Mulcahy

Senior Gift Analyst

Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association

608-308-5524

SUPPORTUW.ORG

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

"Giving" giving@supportuw.org

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Subject: Inquiry re today's donation request letter

Dear Sir or Madam:

I'm writing to bring to your attention two documents that arrived today, one via the mail, and one on the web. The first was a donation request from you. The second was an article by John McWhorter of

the New York Times. As you are likely aware, Mr. McWhorter has written two articles in the past month that report on poor decision-making by the University. I provide links to them below. The first reports on the rock removal and the second on the removal of Fredric March's name from the theatre in the Union.

In my opinion, the first cost some money that could have been better used. The second was simply a case of bad judgment based on incomplete information. Mr. McWhorter's article on Mr. March appears to set the record straight. I offer the Wikipedia reference and footnotes below as support. Furthermore, as McWhorter states, Chancellor Blank, who sent us the funding request, has personally stated "that March had "fought the persecution of Hollywood artists, many of them Jewish, in the 1950s by the House Un-American Activities Committee" and that March "took actions later in life to suggest (he) opposed discrimination." Our family supports this position.

Isn't it time that the UW-Madison reconsidered its decision regarding the Playhouse name? Action in this regard will influence our family's (admittedly modest) future donations.

Regards,



<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/24/opinion/antiracism-university-wisconsin-rock.html?searchResultPosition=7>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/17/opinion/wisconsin-Fredric-March.html>

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Cathleen Walters](#)
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock Move
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:26:11 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 at 3:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock Move

Dear Gary –

Thank you for taking time to write.

I recognize that not everyone agrees with our decisions regarding Chamberlin Rock. This rock has, however, over time become a symbol to our students of color about the past history of racism on UW-Madison’s campus. We went through a year-long process last year, looking at the historical record, listening to the students, and talking with our geological experts about this rock. At the end of this process, our ‘Campus Memorials’ committee voted to move the rock to a different location, where it could still be accessed by geology students, but where it no longer held the symbolic connotations that our Black students particularly objected to. I accepted that recommendation.

Removing the rock as a monument in a prominent location responds to the valid objections among our students of color while preserving the rock’s educational and research value for current and future scholars. Meanwhile, we have also made sure there is a memorial to President Chamberlin elsewhere on campus.

I appreciate your long-time connections to UW-Madison and your generosity [REDACTED]. I hope that this incident will not affect your connection to the excellent work of that School.

Becky Blank

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin – Madison
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership
161 Bascom Hall

500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9946

From: chancellor@uwp.edu <chancellor@uwp.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock Move

Becky,

I believe this message was intended for you.

Thanks,
Debbie

Debbie Ford

Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
900 Wood Road | Kenosha, WI 53144
262-595-2211 | ford@uwp.edu

[apply today](#)



Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

[REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 4:42 PM
To: University of Wisconsin-Parkside Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@uwp.edu>;
assistant@chancellor.wisc.edu
Cc: board@uwsa.edu; Brad Green <brad.green@supportuw.org>; Jaal Ghandhi
<jaal.gandhi@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock Move

Dear Chancellor Blank:

Both I [REDACTED], graduated from the University of Wisconsin many years ago. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. Rehm specialized in the development of boilers. He received many patents in recognition of his achievements in this area. The UW scholarship is in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

[REDACTED] and I contributed to the scholarship, a few thousand dollars each per year. [REDACTED] passed, I substantially increased the yearly contribution to \$25,000 per annum.

I recently became aware of the Chamberlin Rock move, which I understand cost \$50,000. During my time at the University I never heard of the Chamberlin Rock and doubt if [REDACTED] did either. According to the reports I have read, the rock was moved because a 100 year old news article included a racial slur regarding the rock and this upset some students. In my view, spending \$50,000 to move a rock for this reason borders on insanity. Apparently the inmates (students) are running the institution (University of Wisconsin).

Bottom line, I'm going to have to seriously reconsider my future contributions to [REDACTED]. Any institution that can fitter away \$50,000 to move a rock because a word in a 100 year old article upsets some students doesn't need my money.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

From: [GARY A BROWN](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [Meredith Mcglone](#); [KIP MCMAHAN](#); [Margaret Tennesen](#)
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 9:23:01 AM

One very grateful commentator on our recent relocation project. As noted, I've had some less than desirable responses from the general public.

Gary

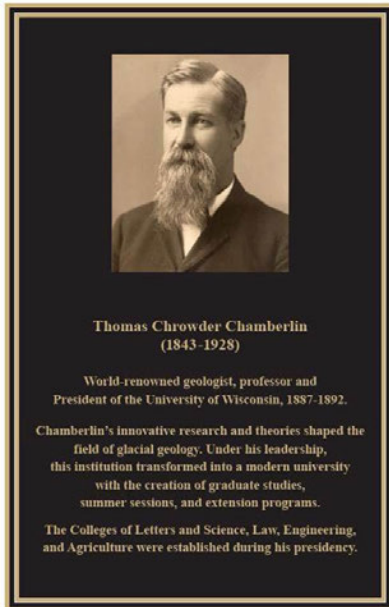
From: JR <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 9:09 AM
To: GARY A BROWN <gary.brown@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock

Oh thank you very much, Gary. I have added this to our information. I appreciate the photo of the large glacial erratic rock. (not sure if I use the word rock after erratic or not). and I like the plaque! I lived in the limestone house that Thomas along with his brother John and their dad, Rev. John Chamberlin built in the 1880s. It is still standing strong today in spite of having two fires. It has been remodeled inside several times but the limestones outside still stand strong. Thank you!!! – Janet Wagner

From: GARY A BROWN
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 8:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock

Hi, Janet... the chancellor's office asked that I respond to your questions. I'm happy to help out.

FYI – in March 2021, we removed the plaque honoring President Chamberlin it is safely stored in UW Archives. A new plaque for President Chamberlin will be installed on the outside at the west entry of Chamberlin Hall to continue his legacy, removing the references to "this rock" and Observatory Hill (see below). We are very specifically not referring to the large glacial erratic as "Chamberlin Rock" to try and distance his legacy and the hateful, racist moniker. The rock will now just be known as a large glacial erratic.



We've moved the glacial erratic to a UW-owned property west of Lake Kegonsa which still allows it to be used for teaching & research. While open to the public, it is not overly visible or noticeable from the local roadways. See photo attached.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,
Gary

=====

Gary A. Brown, PLA, FASLA (*he/him/his*)

Director, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture
Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Facilities Planning & Management
University of Wisconsin-Madison
30 N. Mills Street, 4th Floor Madison, WI 53715-1211
gary.brown@wisc.edu
Desk: 608-263-3023 Mobile: 608-334-2417



=====

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, August 7, 2021 9:29 AM
To: GARY A BROWN <gary.brown@wisc.edu>

Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock

Gary—Possible to respond to this one?

Thanks,

John

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

chancellor@wisc.edu

From: JR <[REDACTED]>

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 7:45 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Chamberlin Rock

I do archives of various plots at the cemetery for the city here in Beloit. Chamberlin family is one of them. For my notes, I'm wondering why the informational plate was removed from the Rock. Also has a decision been made on where the plate will be placed....I'm wondering why not the Chamberlin Hall? While there were good documental information on the removal of the rock, I haven't been able to find any picture of the rock being placed in its new home. Would you by chance have a picture of that. Since this Rock is part of the Chamberlin information in our records, I like to document it's new home and also where the plate ends up at.

Thank you. Janet Wagner



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Adam Kindschy](#)
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Saturday, January 9, 2021 11:30:39 AM

Follow up--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 1/9/21, 11:29 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Office of the Chancellor
Rebecca Blank, Chancellor UW Madison

Thank you for your 01/06/2021 e-mail informing me of your decision to relocate Chamberlin Rock to the Ice Age Trail off University property. This is not the outcome I personally preferred; however, you made a decision that all involved parties should respect. Since my offer to fund 100% of the cost of relocating Chamberlin Rock (11/23/2020 letter) was not accepted, I would like to inquire what source will provide funds for relocation? I look forward to your reply.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 8:11 AM John Damm <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Chancellor Rebecca Blank

>

> By now you should have received my 11/23/2020 letter along with a copy of my 08/24/2020 letter to Karen Wasserman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs CALS. I would much appreciate your response to my letter detailing my sponsorship of the Chamberlin Rock Scholarship Fund thru the UW Foundation and the student scholarships awarded each year to undergraduates. Thank you.

>

> Regards:

> [REDACTED]

>

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Adam Kindschy](#)
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock:
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:45:05 PM

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4:42 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock:

Rebecca Blank

Thank you for including me in the procedures involving the future of Chamberlin Rock. I look forward to updates as decisions are formalized over the next few months.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 2:58 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

[REDACTED],

Thank you for your email response.

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) will be meeting tomorrow (Thursday) to discuss disposition of Chamberlin Rock. In preparation for the meeting, the CPC has drafted the attached document. In our ongoing effort to keep you updated on this process, we are sharing this document with you.

Thank you for your continued interest in this process and for your very generous support of the university.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:35 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Chamberlin Rock:

Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

Thank you for your 12/08/2020 response to my letter expressing my concern regarding Chamberlin Rock. I have been following the Wisconsin State Journal editorial page on this matter, and have found that I am not alone in my concern. I will by US Postal Mail send you photocopies of recent letters to the editor, both pro and con. Perhaps these letters by concerned citizens will be of help to you as you go forward in your decision-making process. Thank you again for your willingness to consider all aspects of this matter.

Regards,



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Greg Bump](#)
Subject: FW: Keep the Rock!
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 11:37:49 AM

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 2:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Keep the Rock!

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Keep the Rock!

I request that you pass this email on to the decision makers in the removal of The Rock (from a post that I saw on social media today. I trust it is accurate.) If it is, I hope you will reverse your decision to remove the rock.

It was stated that the problem with the slur "ni****-head" came from its use of the term in a 1925 newspaper. In similar fashion, Jack London, world famous author, used the phrase when writing about terrain in the Yukon. From his short story *To Build a Fire*: "**He held on through the level stretch of woods for several miles, crossed a wide flat of ni****-heads, and dropped down a bank to the frozen bed of a small stream. This was Henderson Creek,**"...

I taught this story to Jr. High students for years and, yes, we discussed the era (early 1900s) that 'allowed' such reference to the round rocks. But discussion of any work by a major writer also includes theme, content, style, and so forth. All elements are studied, along with the context of the time they were written.

I think comparisons can be made to the removal of this rock. If we remove a rock because of a 1925 publication, will we also remove Jack London's short story "To Build a Fire" from print because he used the phrase and published it in a story in 1902? The obvious question is, "where will it all end?"

Laurel Gruhn, retired English Teacher from [REDACTED]



Corey Coyle / Wikimedia Commons

by [JOEL B. POLLAK](#) · 18 Nov 2020 · 8,410



LISTEN TO STORY

2:32

The University of Wisconsin-Madison plans to remove a large rock from campus after students complained that it is a symbol of racism because it was referred to in a local newspaper in 1925 using a word regarded as a racial slur.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Jessica Arp](#)
Subject: FW: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:01:21 PM

Sending a few on Abe--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 1:06 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill

If the University of Wisconsin removes or allows the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill I will cease immediately all donations to the university and its student organizations. I will also cancel my season tickets to the UW football and men's basketball teams. And finally, I will engage in a very public and messy campaign to encourage my fellow alumni to do the same.

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Charles Hoslet](#); [Lori Reesor](#); [CHERYL GITTENS](#)
Subject: FW: Message from a Disappointed Student
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 3:49:37 PM

All—

Thought I'd pass this along as one of the more comprehensive "mood" messages we've received of late.

I will acknowledge it, but don't have a response. Not sure if Student Affairs would attempt to do outreach?

John

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 4:33 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Message from a Disappointed Student

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a senior here at UW Madison.

I'm reaching out to say from the bottom of my heart that I think you are failing your students in your role as chancellor.

In the three years I've been at UW, I've been constantly losing more and more faith in this institution until it has dwindled to barely anything. Your response to the Black Lives Matter movement and to COVID have solidified to me that you do not have your students' best interests at heart. You care more about saving your money and saving face than saving UW students from violence, sickness, and alienation on campus.

First, **I want to talk about your response to the Black Lives Matter movement**, and your general apathy towards Black, Indigenous, and POC students.

I read the email that you sent about Black Lives Matter, and it made me sick. The email is a PR stunt to show your "support" for black lives. But before the movement, I don't remember receiving any emails on how much you care about Black students. And clearly, from the countless testimonies on the @bipocatwisco Instagram page, you don't!

How can you look the other way when so many students are experiencing racism, violence,

emotional manipulation, isolation, and fear on campus?

Your email is full of bullshit, and you know it is... because you are smart, if not compassionate. I'll list some of the bullshit below.

1. You say you want to serve your BIPOC students, but you ignore them when they make demands to you. For example, Indigenous students have been asking for the removal of Abe Lincoln for YEARS, and you haven't done it. What??? That just doesn't add up. You care more about the presence of long dead president Lincoln, (a killer of Indigenous people, a white supremacist, a shining symbol of whiteness and fake white saviorism), than you do the voices of current UW students?? And you have the audacity to say that you LISTEN to the students. White students line up to sit in Lincoln's lap, and you can't let that go, so you allow a symbol of racism to sit and overlook the entire university, clearly communicating to BIPOC students that you give zero fucks about them. You also refuse to remove a ROCK, that was named by KKK members. It would be so easy to remove? You're literally doing construction on Bascom Hill right now? Why don't you just remove these things?

2. You say that you are "Developing a fundraising initiative with the goal of raising at least \$10 million in new private gifts, working in partnership with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. We will use these funds to recruit a more diverse group of students, faculty and staff, and to build a campus culture that welcomes and retains all groups, particularly people of color."

Why is this 10 million dollars going to majorly white associations?? Why are you not distributing this money to Black led, Indigenous led, POC led organizations on campus? Especially after the racism and exclusion of the Alumni Association that multiple students have attested to on @bipocatwisco.

Give this money directly to BIPOC students and orgs!!!

3. You say, under the Campus History section: "Two years ago, I committed \$1 million to a [public history project](#), designed to explore the experiences of more marginalized groups on campus, focusing on particular events or time periods."

Don't talk so highly of yourself and your meager contribution. On your personal salary ALONE, you literally make a million dollars in two years. And THAT'S the amount you think is fit for educating an entire campus on "uncomfortable truths of the university's past"?! It's more than an uncomfortable truth, it's genocide of an entire people. It's KKK members being backed up by the university.

You say you gave this 1 million dollars two years ago. So, what are you doing RIGHT NOW and what will you do?

Also, 1 million dollars is 0.3 percent of the University Budget. So, you're not fooling anyone into thinking you care about spreading the truth about campus history.

4. "Make mandatory the [Our Wisconsin](#) training program for all new entering undergraduate students starting this fall. Similar to trainings that are already required on alcohol safety and sexual violence prevention, it is critical that we provide students with an understanding about culture, identity, and difference, as well as the skills and commitment to create a community that is inclusive of all people."

Ah, yes, a training module. I remember being forced to complete the sexual assault training module myself, and it was one of the worst experiences. It actually made me more uncomfortable, because I realized that the University has no clue on how to discuss sexual

assault and how to protect students from it. Not once did the module say "Do not sexually assault another person. Do not touch someone without their consent." None of it was preventative, it placed all responsibility on survivors. I wrote to you about that module, and never heard back. And, obviously UW does not care AT ALL about taking sexual assault cases seriously, because they never convict the violent assaulters, but let them walk free. So, what does this new training module look like? You are aggravatingly vague about it. Does it mention Black Lives Matter? Is it set up to benefit white students (as it shouldn't), or to support BIPOC students (as it should)? Who created it? What the fuck is this thing we're all required to take 30 minutes of our time for?? Anyway, I'm not convinced.

5. Your whole section on policing. I don't think you heard correctly, students want you to DEFUND and ABOLISH the police, not add on a couple random reforms. There is evidence that reforms don't work. Kenosha police went through anti-racist training about a month before one of their own shot a man 7 times in the back with his kids in the car. And, you say this. "Finally, I have to note that change can be slow." This is so insulting to people actually trying to make change. It's dangerous for people who you could fool into thinking fast, meaningful change isn't possible. The truth is, you could make the change quickly, you just don't care enough to.

Okay, now I'll move on to your email about COVID.

It starts off pretty bad with "We're on the cusp of what is sure to be one of the most unusual fall semesters in our university's history." Unusual? More like you are bringing back thousands of students in the midst of a pandemic that's killed millions of people. Below are more of my concerns.

*We're more than "anxious" about it, some of us are really in danger of long term health effects and death. The "smart" restart will endanger downtown Homeless people (who are much more at risk to the virus) who are constantly exposed to students (who are at lower risk).

*You have kept dining halls open, but closed residence hall kitchens. That means you are forcing students to pay at least 1,400 dollars for a meal plan in an already financially hard time. Also, dining halls are one of the most packed places on campus.

*You say that you will keep students accountable (...should students violate this [dane county public health] order, they will be held accountable through university disciplinary action (including suspension for repeat violations) and/or municipal sanctions such as substantial fines.).

Then why have I been seeing massive amounts of students packed into bars without masks on for the past three months? Why am I watching 20 people pack into a tiny apartment across the street from where I live? Why are the frats and sororities constantly throwing parties? If you were actually going to give out suspensions there would be SO many given out by now. And yes, I could make a report, but I'd have to be making hundred of reports. And it's strange, because you're not stupid. So how can you really think that students won't congregate without masks and social distancing? So if it's not stupidity, then it must be a desire to make money rather than keep students safe, which is scarier.

*And then there's this. "As noted, we have emphasized to all students that they can stay

away from Madison and take remote classes if they have health issues or if this is their preference. The fact that our students are returning to Madison in large numbers indicates their desire to be on and near campus.”

This sounds to me like “well, these students are paying us millions of dollars to come to our institution, but we’ll just put all the responsibility on them to decide whether or not to remain on campus. And if they don’t remain on campus, we’ll still charge them the same disgusting amount of money.”

And of course people have a desire to be on campus! But the fact is, we’re in a pandemic! You can’t really just make decisions off of what young, low risk college students want, you have to think of the public health and safety of everyone.

Also, I have a feeling once everyone returns, we’re going to see a spike of cases. And when that happens, are you going to make everything online again? I would prefer transparency rather than bullshit.

I really hope you’ve read this, and I hope you seriously consider it. It’s harsh, but you need to make a change. You’re getting paid almost \$600,000, so I don’t feel too bad about being honest. I do not support UW-Madison, and when I graduate I won’t speak highly of this university. But, I do have a deep desire for the University to become a better place, where people can learn, feel safe, and find community! That’s what it’s meant to be.

Hoping you make a change,



P.S. I have some demands, created by Link, and local Madison group that’s been leading protests, community building, and housing homeless people. I’ll keep sending these to you so they’ll be on your mind.

1. Remove the Lincoln statue
2. Remove the Chamberlin Rock
3. Moral- not “smart” restart
4. Fire Matt Kenny
5. Convict Matt Kenny
6. Defund the Police- UW and MPD
7. Abolish the Police
8. Free Yeshua
9. Free Sire
10. Justice for Althea
11. Justice for Alize
12. House every person experiencing homelessness

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Charles Hoslet](#); [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Kristen Roman](#); [Marc Lovicott](#); [LAURENT HELLER](#); [JOHN A HORN](#); [Meredith Mcclone](#); [Lori Reesor](#)
Subject: FW: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:34:20 AM

All—Here's a video related to the potential Abe situation I mentioned to Charlie and Matt yesterday.

I believe this was due to be raised at PDT yesterday.

John

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 8:29 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism

To whom it may concern,

I saw this video posted on Facebook past night and thought you should be aware.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709951672589807/permalink/2560978230820476/>

It sounds like a group of people plan on tearing down the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill sometime next week. I believe this was filmed either Sunday (6/22) or Monday (6/23), and they reference the statue needing to be taken down within a week or they will take it down (along with anyone hired to guard it).

I have no other info aside from what can be seen in this video. I did also submit this information to the Madison Police Department this morning.

Brian Bieniek

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Lori Reesor](#); [Charles Hoslet](#); [Matthew Mayrl](#); [CHERYL GITTENS](#); [LAURENT HELLER](#); [Kristen Roman](#); [John Karl Scholz](#)
Cc: [Meredith Mcglone](#); [EDWARD BROWN JR](#); [Jenny Bernhardt](#); [Alex Peirce](#); [Marc Lovicott](#); [Eden Inoway-Ronnie](#); [JOHN A HORN](#)
Subject: FW: Students Demand: Divest from White Supremacy, Invest in Black Life
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:19:34 AM

Here's another petition to add to our recent list--
John

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 9:06 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>, VCFA Finance and Administration <vcfa@vc.wisc.edu>, "tthompson@uwsa.edu" <tthompson@uwsa.edu>, "board@uwsa.edu" <board@uwsa.edu>, UW-Madison Provost <provost@provost.wisc.edu>, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs <vcsa@studentaffairs.wisc.edu>, UW-Madison Chief Diversity Officer <chiefdiversityofficer@cdo.wisc.edu>
Subject: Students Demand: Divest from White Supremacy, Invest in Black Life

September 2nd, 2020

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank, Vice Chancellor Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori Reesor, President Tommy Thompson, Provost Karl Scholz, Chief Diversity Officer Cheryl Gattens, and UW Board of Regents:

We are the Abolition Geographies Collective, a group of graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We formed in the midst of a summer of nationwide uprisings against anti-Black police violence and systemic racism to organize for a campus that is safe for all by defunding and abolishing the UWPD. Here we present our statement and demands for the university to divest from violence and invest in the lives, futures, and safety of Black, Indigenous, and of color students, faculty, and staff.

We find that the administration's current commitment to anti-racism, publicized over the past few months, is performative at best and hostile and deadly at worst. Anti-racism, especially at a predominantly white institution, requires a deep collective commitment to unlearning past practices and learning new ones, enacting structural and budgetary changes rather than merely symbolic ones. You may say that this takes time, but many of us are not afforded that time. We cannot wait for those, including white liberals, who do not directly experience the inherent violence of policing, to acknowledge and understand how high the stakes are. Between the day we published

the attached letter on Juneteenth and today, too many more lives have been lost; too many have become victims of white supremacy.

[Jacob Blake](#). [Tony McDade](#). [Dontre Hamilton](#). [Sylville Smith](#). [Tony Terrell Robinson](#). [George Floyd](#). [Breonna Taylor](#). [Ahmaud Arbery](#). [Nina Pop](#). [Tamir Rice](#). [Aiyana Stanley-Jones](#). [Trayvon Martin](#). [Sandra Bland](#). [Oscar Grant](#). [Eric Garner](#). [Janisha Fonville](#). [Philando Castille](#). [Pamela Turner](#). [Walter Scott](#). [Michael Brown](#). [Kiwi Herring](#). [Kawaski Trawick](#). [Stephon Clark](#). [Alteria Woods](#). [Terence Crutcher](#). [Mya Hall](#). [Freddie Gray](#). [Sam Dubose](#). [Jason Washington](#). [Miciah Lee](#). [Aleah Jenkins](#). [Demetrius Dubose](#). [Siaki Ramon del Rio](#). [Mark Adkins](#). [Alfred Olango](#). [Marshawn Washington](#). [Bernedette Grantling](#). [Frederick Jefferson](#). [James Lacy](#). [LaMontez Jones](#).

And let us not forget the COVID-19 deaths caused by government inaction and our failed health care system. As of August 31st, over [180,000](#) Americans have died from COVID-19. According to the COVID Tracking Project, Black Americans are dying at a rate of nearly three times as that of white people. These crises are inseparable.

In light of this, a [“Smart Restart”](#) is unconscionable. It signals a blatant disregard for Black life, the uninsured and immuno-compromised, and those most vulnerable in our society. Further, it is contradictory to claim “care” for students while policing and punishing them on and off campus. We already know that using police to shore up the University’s failed policy decisions will result in intensified targeting of Black, Indigenous and students of color (BIPOC), as the UWPD already disproportionately targets these students on campus. This showcases how UWPD Police Chief Kristen Roman’s [recent statements](#) are meaningless. In spite of expressing remorse over the murder of George Floyd and commitments to improve relations with communities of color, UWPD and MPD have mobilized to target and criminalize students for the consequences of the administration’s irresponsible and racist re-opening plan, which have already failed at universities across the U.S. We refuse to believe that individual students are the ones primarily responsible for the illness and death caused by the spread of COVID-19 — the blame is on you.

As campus prepares for reopening, people continue to die. We remember and honor Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, murdered in Kenosha for demanding justice for Jacob Blake. As we learn from the uprising there, white supremacist and fascist vigilantes around the Midwest flock to cities to instill what they see as “law-and-order.” Such illegal vigilantes have received support from the Kenosha Police Department, the National Guard, Federal Agents, and the President of the United States. The University of Wisconsin is not immune to this sort of white supremacist violence as we know from racial hostility incidents [here](#) and at other [Midwest campuses](#). As the movement for Black Lives grows, will the UWPD be deployed to repress it in tandem with a growing fascist presence nationally, or can we defund the department and use those resources to invest in Black futures? We insist on the latter.

We support and join our peer institutions, Black faculty, students, and staff in their

demands across the country for University divestments from the police state and the investment in Black safety and lives. We actively support and are in solidarity with the historical and present work and organizing of the [BSU](#), [Student Inclusion Coalition](#), the [TAA](#), [LINK](#), and your [BIPOC student population](#). Your dismissal of our peers' and community members' needs and demands reveals your commitment to upholding white supremacy on this campus and your placement of profit over lives. And we will continue to push for change. Again, here we deliver our own demands, centered on valuing Black and BIPOC life, where we identify Abolition as the necessary framework to create and sustain change. We demand a response by **October 1st, 2020**.

[Read our Statement and Demands here.](#)

No Justice, No Peace.
The Abolition Geographies Collective
<http://abolitiongeographies.space>

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Alisa Robertson](#)
Subject: FW: UW Is at the Crossroads
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 5:06:37 PM

Is this a significant name? Email is borderline threatening.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:49 PM
To: 'Michael Knetter' <michael.knetter@wfaamail.com>, 'Jennifer McFarland' <Jennifer.mcfarland@wfaamail.com>, 'Betsy Popelka Massnick' <Betsy.Massnick@supportuw.org>
Cc: Judy Sherkow <sherkow@earthlink.net>, "enr-dean engr.wisc.edu" <enr-dean@enr.wisc.edu>, David Noyce <danoyce@wisc.edu>, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: RE: UW Is at the Crossroads

Dear UW Folks:

I haven't heard back from you. Now, *as I feared*, there are those sick people at UW or in Madison that want the Lincoln statue torn down from in front of Bascom Hall.

Let me be very clear – **OUR continued support for UW include my multi-million dollar bequest is CONDITIONAL on keeping and protecting this statue.** See my conditions below.

The statue is the “canary in the coal mine.” If UW can be pressured into removing the statue of the President that freed the slaves, then it can be pressured into anything!

We are waiting for a reply to my earlier email (see below). ***You now have 30 days!***

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:17 PM
To: 'Michael Knetter'; 'Jennifer McFarland'; 'Betsy Popelka Massnick'
Cc: Judy Sherkow (sherkow@earthlink.net); 'enr-dean@enr.wisc.edu'; 'danoyce@wisc.edu'; 'chancellor@news.wisc.edu'
Subject: UW Is at the Crossroads

The University of Wisconsin is at the crossroads, again. And our multi-million gift (and those of like minds) to UW is at risk.

I was on campus (trying to get to class) the last time radicals decided that THEY should rule the planet. I was trapped in my dorm room breathing tear gas and watching battles between police and radicals. Not only was the University turned upside-down, but Sterling Hall was bombed and a grad student was killed. **Do you remember his name?** I do.

*Dane County police and Madison firefighters carry the body of **Robert Fassnacht**, 33, from UW-Madison's Sterling Hall after the graduate student was killed in a bombing targeting the Army Math Research Center, which was in that building.*

Now, radicals are spreading their poison again, trying to pit one group against another and imposing their sick philosophy on everyone. The University must stand against this horrible trend. If it does not, then we (and others like us) cannot support its future. And, that would be too bad.

The last time the University was at the crossroads, it and the City **failed**. It failed the students. It failed the taxpayers and citizens. It failed the Wisconsin Idea (The Wisconsin Idea is the pledge to the state, the nation, and the world that its endeavors will benefit all citizens).

You'll probably hear from the radicals about their "demands" about social justice and other issues.

Now, you'll hear our demands:

1. You must protect and not move the statue of Lincoln
2. No name changes of buildings or streets for "social justice" reasons
3. No disrespect of the flag or anthem at sporting events or other University functions
4. No required "orientation courses" about social justice or other similar subjects
5. No hiring of more University administrative staff or faculty to "educate" or monitor staff or students about how bias everyone is
6. No courses about anti-white, anti-capitalism, or anti-America subjects; and no textbooks about these subjects
7. No painting slogans on streets or buildings that are harmful or intimidating to one group or

another

8. No removal or deconstruction of historical images or records
9. No hiring of faculty or appointments to committees based on race or gender
10. No contributions by UW to race-based or religion-based organizations, and no formal association with these groups
11. No deconstruction of female athletics by allowing or advocating non-biological "female" participation in women's athletic events

If you agree, that's great. If not, just let us know. It will save everyone much time and effort. **You are at the crossroads . . . Again.** What are you going to do?



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Frederic March
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:56:45 AM

Ms. Blank:

John McWhorter totally debunked the elision of Frederick March from the University of Wisconsin. The error should be corrected and his name restored.

Charles Warburton

Sent from my iPad

From: [Camille Kurtz](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Frederick March
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 7:46:03 AM

SHAME ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — MADISON!

The stupid (unjustified) actions of the students were wrong, clearly. But they were a TEACHABLE MOMENT. WHY DID THE UNIVERSITY NOT TEACH? Why did the university not stand up for truth, fairness, integrity of examination and analysis? Isn't that what universities are supposed to do?

Shame on YOU!

Camille Kurtz


Sent from my iPad

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw:
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 9:02:34 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject:

It has come to my attention that you removed the chamberlin rock . This stone named for a geologist and past president of this university when it meant something . I [REDACTED] The rock has no problems it is the people around it looking for excuses to destroy history. I was looking to leave something to you but if my history doesn't matter neither do you. It is history that brings people back to support you. I can see we are not important to your history.
Randy zondag

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Rebecca Blank](#)
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock Information
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 7:57:07 AM

From: GARY A BROWN <gary.brown@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: ALAN R FISH <arfish@wisc.edu>; LAURENT HELLER <laurent.heller@wisc.edu>; KIP MCMAHAN <christopher.mcmahan@wisc.edu>; DANIEL EINSTEIN <daniel.einstein@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock Information

Chancellor, good chatting with you this afternoon and discussing your decision to remove Chamberlin Rock. I'll be pulling together a small, nimble group to discuss the process and provide you with recommendations on a new location for the Chamberlin plaque.

As requested, attached is an image of the plaque so you can review the wording. Note that there is some reference to the rock itself ("This boulder...") in the latter section of the plaque text, along with references to "this hill", which may suggest where we need to relocate the plaque.



Also, I've included a short below a history of the issues surrounding the rock and its unfortunate reference, as provided by Daniel Einstein on our staff:

Short answer:

I am unaware that the university has ever used the reference "N.....head" to describe Chamberlin Rock. Yes, a 1925 news article used this disgusting and offensive term to describe the rock—but not the memorial itself. In fact, the memorial plaque had yet to be installed. This is an important distinction. I believe the origin of this issue is a single newspaper article in the Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 9, 1925. Here is an online link to the first part of the article:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Newspaper/BA7994Longer> The term

“N.....head” was a common reference to objects that protruded from the ground (outcrops, stumps etc.) The term was also used to reference plants, clothing, mountain ranges and Texas hunting camps.

Longer answer:

Aaron Birdbear has been sharing this 1925 news article in some of his campus tours.

The story was repeated in the September 20, 2018, Isthmus news article:

<https://isthmus.com/news/snapshot/the-story-of-this-land/> The Isthmus article implies that “N.....head” was the name the university was using for the Chamberlin Rock:

“The name was later changed to Chamberlain Rock, but Bird Bear says its evolution is representative of how cultural norms have shifted — and how far we have to go.”

It appears that the student [REDACTED] is referencing inaccurate news stories and concluded that the Chamberlin Rock may have once been designated by the university with an offensive racial term. What seems to be the case is that a local news reporter (or editor?) used a common (and inappropriate) term to describe a partially submerged glacial erratic, in a “catchy” headline.

We’ll be in touch,
Gary

=====
Gary A. Brown, PLA, FASLA *(he/him/his)*

Director, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture

Director, Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Facilities Planning & Management

University of Wisconsin-Madison

30 N. Mills Street, 4th Floor Madison, WI 53715-1211

gary.brown@wisc.edu

Desk: 608-263-3023 Mobile: 608-334-2417



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=====

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [SARAH SPLINTER](#); [EMILY O HENKEN](#)
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:00:40 AM

Hi John,

Sharing as an FYI. We do not plan to respond unless we hear differently from you.

Thanks,

Emily

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

The future of America is dire when institutions are forced to capitulate to spoiled and pampered children who have yet to contribute productively to society.

You know the people who fight not real threats but symbolic ones such as rocks, words and dead people. If a person can not function because a rock hurt their feelings then they are the weakest stock of people American has ever produced.

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Alisa Robertson](#)
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:34:31 AM

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

Hello Chancellor Blank,

I graduated from UW with my MBA in 1988. A few years ago, I was quite disappointed (and vocal) about the decision to eliminate the regular MBA program. While that decision was rightly reversed shortly afterwards, it is an example of a very poor and yet impactful decision that somehow passed through the ranks of the entire university.

Now, UW is back in the national spotlight because of the removal of a rock that's been sitting on Observatory Hill for nearly a century. From what I've gathered, before being on display at that location, the unique and rare rock has been in the area for a couple billion years.

Some people discovered an unaffiliated newspaper article that is also nearly 100 years old that they believe associates Chamberlin Rock with a racial slur? This "association" is not displayed on the plaque that was on the rock before its removal, or anywhere else at the university for that matter.

Several former US Presidents and many Americans had slaves. Looking through today's lens, was it wrong for them to have slaves? Of course it was. Was it wrong that these people in our history were racist? Absolutely. But, are we to remove them from our history books? Are we to pretend that the removal of things that are a part of our history will somehow right previous wrongs? Isn't it more important to keep the reminders of our sometimes painful history at the forefront so that we can constantly be evolving towards greater justice?

And yet, those that control the financial levers at the University of Wisconsin decided that it would be prudent to use \$50k of privately donated money to have the rock permanently removed.

I've spent my career developing and bringing new and transformational scientific, medical and engineering products to market. I intend to leave a legacy that continues these efforts.

But, I'm surely not going to donate assets to an organization that continues to make poor decisions including funding something as wasteful as the removal of a rock because of a supposed association nearly a hundred years ago.

Most sincerely,

Thomas E. Mattoon

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock: Are the media reports leaving something out?
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 9:04:03 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock: Are the media reports leaving something out?

From what I've been able to glean from the reports, the case for moving the Chamberlin Rock consists of the fact that:

1. A single newspaper article from 1925 referred to it using a racially offensive term commonly used at the time to describe round, dark-colored boulders. Efforts have been made to find other uses of this term in reference to the rock, but nothing has turned up.
2. There was KKK activity on campus at the time, but not specifically in connection with the rock.

Normally when something sounds this crazy, there's more to the story, so I'm curious as to whether there are any important details being left out of the media reports. Is there any additional information that casts this decision in a more reasonable light?

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Meredith McClone](#); [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Charles Hoslet](#); [Marc Lovicott](#)
Subject: Fw: Demands for Removal of Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:23:15 PM

Another one--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: Demands for Removal of Abraham Lincoln Statue

To whom it may concern

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and a rising junior at The University of Wisconsin Madison. I am currently writing a story on student driven racial justice initiatives on campus, and I was hoping to speak to the Chancellor about initiatives among students who are hoping to see the Abraham Lincoln statue to be removed on campus and are working to establish a more welcoming environment for students on campus.

If you have any availability this afternoon to speak, I would so greatly appreciate your perspective. Thank you so much!

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Just a hope and a prayer...
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:48:35 PM

Sharing this feedback about Abe. We have not responded.

Thanks,
Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:07 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Just a hope and a prayer...

That the university's president and board do not cave into the demands of some students to remove the Lincoln statue from any campus. Since when does a university pander to student demands such as this? I hope they won't.

IF they are considering it, they need to check out who's behind this group. If students want take down the statue, then take down the Democratic Party on campus... do the research on who started KKK; who wanted slavery? Don't o erasing history because of a few malcontents. Hopefully this message doesn't stop with "Bucky"... it should go to the board and the president.

Sincerely,

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Pro Black?
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:03:13 PM

From: RODNEY CARLSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Pro Black?

Saw article that Lincoln's statue should be taken down because he was not pro black? I'm afraid your so called enlightened black and white students are not pro black either. Well, they are to black leftists but not black policemen or black conservatives or anyone who aren't in lockstep with your poor uneducated narrow minded racists students or faculty. Give me a break.

Elaine Carlson

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Removal of Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 9:02:26 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Removal of Chamberlin Rock

Unless I'm misunderstanding something based on what I've read, you recently removed the Chamberlin Rock because the Black Student Union took offense to a journalist using the term "niggerhead" in an 1925 article. I understand the boulder which rested atop Observatory Hill, was named after a 19th Century geologist and former university president, Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, whose work centered on glacial deposits.

However the boulder has nothing to do with racism and does not represent the journalist nor the article. By removing the rock you're insinuating it was because Chamberlin was racist. By all means, if Thomas Crowder Chamberlin was a racist and you have proof, publish it. I've found none.

Perhaps you should return the boulder and add a plate describing what the boulder truly represents. It seems the Black Student Union is misplacing their offended feelings toward the boulder instead of the journalist and article. Please give credit where credit is do, return the boulder!

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Rock
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:04:19 AM

Hi John,

We received two more emails about the Chamberlin rock. I'll forward the other on as well in just a minute.

Please let us know if you don't want us to continue sending these along.

Thanks!
Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:10 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Rock

Just read an article about your esteemed university making the huge discovery that giant rocks are racist!

I swear, this entire generation are the biggest whining bunch of twats ever. How proud you must be to be the butt of today's joke.

And how much money shall be wasted on this?

Rename yourself "Cheesy U."

From: [Ask Bucky](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fw: Stand with America
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:49:34 AM

Sharing this feedback.

Thanks,
Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Stand with America

Hello

While reading about the insane Marxist leftist students demanding Lincoln's statue be removed it pains me to think you may be just another university to not stand with liberty and America and cave to the violent left. I'd hate to be in your shoes but there is no way this should be allowed.

That statue and what it represents must stand regardless of the brainwashed students beliefs or fake desires. Systemic racism only exists among the left, the democrats and certain minorities. You'd be better off expelling these fools. They give UW a bad name.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Lori Reesor](#)
Subject: Fw: Support for WBSU Demands
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:57:01 AM

Vice Chancellor Reesor,

Meredith asked me to you the forward emails in the chancellor's inbox regarding WBSU. In addition to the [REDACTED] email she shared with you earlier, this is the only other one we've received. I will forward additional messages as they come in.

Greg

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:56 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Support for WBSU Demands

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

I, [REDACTED], stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Meredith Mcglone](#)
Subject: Fw: Support for WBSU Demands
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:17:59 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:56 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Support for WBSU Demands

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

I, [REDACTED], stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [John Lucas](#)
Subject: Fw: [Campus Reform]: Request for Comment
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:53:36 AM

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "Zeisloft, Benjamin" <zeisloft@wharton.upenn.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:27 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: [Campus Reform]: Request for Comment

Hello Chancellor,

My name is Ben Zeisloft, and I am a senior correspondent at *Campus Reform*. I am writing about your [letter](#) to *The New York Times*.

As revealed by *Campus Reform's* recent FOIA [request](#), experts at the university tasked with examining the origins of Chamberlin Rock revealed that it does not have racist links. Yet, you claim the opposite in your letter. Does the rock have a racist history, or does it not?

My deadline is end-of-day Thursday.

Thanks,

Ben Zeisloft

From: [John Lucas](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, July 4, 2020 9:45:46 AM

John Lucas
University Communications
University of Wisconsin-Madison
608.262.8287
john.lucas@wisc.edu

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: July 1, 2020 at 3:16:51 PM CDT
To: John Lucas <john.lucas@wisc.edu>

Can you respond to this as you've responded to other such notes?

Thanks.

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership
161 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9946

From: Raymond Cross <rcross@uwsa.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: July 1, 2020 at 1:56:53 PM CDT
To: Raymond Cross <rcross@uwsa.edu>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln Statue

External Email: Use caution responding, opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Dear President Cross,

I read that there are people who are wanting the statue of Abraham Lincoln to come down on your campus. I truly hope that the school will not allow that to happen. And I am guessing that most people don't want it down but only a small radical group. I am guessing that previous presidents like John Lathrop and Henry Barnard would not have allowed such a thing to happen on the campus with such a small group of radicals leading the force. I am guessing that most of them don't even know all that Lincoln actually did for this country. And I am hoping that past alumni will protest it coming down as well.

There was a time a year or so ago that something similar happened on campus at University of Oregon. I had a conversation via email with the school president there. I was glad to see that they at least protected the statue and allowed proper due process instead of letting a few people make the decision. I hope that you will do the same.

I just wanted to express my thoughts on the matter. I have lots of young people in my life and would never steer them towards a university that would allow something like that to happen. So, I am hopeful that all those there and all that have such great memories of their time at the university.

Thank you for your time.

Gina LaRocco



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fwd: UW set to remove Chamberlin Rock due to its racist past | The Daily Cardinal
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:48:59 PM

Chancellor Blank!

[REDACTED]

“The inherent vice of **capitalism** is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of **socialism** is the equal sharing of miseries.”

-Winston Churchill

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: November 20, 2020 at 1:54:07 PM EST
To: Mike UW-Knetter <mike.knetter@supportuw.org>
Cc: Jeff Wendorf <Jeff.Wendorf@supportuw.org>, [REDACTED]
Peter Christianson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: UW set to remove Chamberlin Rock due to its racist past | The Daily Cardinal

Seriously, Mike!?

The Diversity Movement on MY Madison campus is completely out of control. This rock was NEVER in the slightest way meant to be pRt of a racist landmark! Chancellor Blank shows her great weakness in not standing up this! She needs to do her homework before kowtowing to every “diversity” whim!!!!!! Stand up for all who came before us to make ours a Great State University.....until now!

Please take me off any and all future Foundation solicitations until reason is restored to the campus!

[REDACTED]

<https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2020/11/uw-set-to-remove-chamberlin-rock-due-to-its-racist-past>



“The inherent vice of **capitalism** is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of **socialism** is the equal sharing of miseries.”

-Winston Churchill

From: robyn@lindercpas.com
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] UW Madison student government passes resolution supporting removal of Lincoln statue | The College Fix
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 2:36:10 PM

Ms. Blank, The liberal socialist and communist professors at UW have managed to teach all students that socialism and communism is wonderful and America is terrible. If the Lincoln statue is removed UW will never receive another dime from this Bascom Hill Member. Robyn Linder BBA 67'

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Thomas Gerger" <gergert@stifel.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 2:17:04 PM
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] UW Madison student government passes resolution supporting removal of Lincoln statue | The College Fix

Thomas J. Gerger
Senior Vice President/Investments

Stifel Nicolaus
18000 W Sarah Lane
Suite 180
Brookfield WI 53045
Ph 262-794-1000
Fax 262-794-0125
Toll Free 877-794-0600

What a bunch of privileged a-hole punks. Will speak volumes about UW if they give in to this bs.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 9, 2020, at 12:31 PM, Gerger, Thomas <gergert@stifel.com> wrote:

>
>
>
>
>
>

> <https://www.thecollegefix.com/uw-madison-student-government-passes-resolution-supporting-removal-of-lincoln-statue/>

>

> This message, and any of its attachments, is for the intended recipient(s) only, and it may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and/or proprietary and subject to important terms and conditions available at <http://www.stifel.com/disclosures/emaildisclaimers/>. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete this message and immediately notify the sender. No confidentiality, privilege, or property rights are waived or lost by any errors in transmission.

>

From: [Susan Spahn](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Grateful..
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:29:01 AM

I've been wanting to get in touch.

I have enjoyed being a neighbor to UW Madison for over 25 years. I worked at departments in the Colleges of Ag and Letters and Science for some years.

This summer I have enjoyed biking the quiet campus and watching the progress and many preparations for students to return safely.

I am grateful for the beautiful campus and everyone, from the Chancellor to the gardeners, who help make it so.

On my ride today I made a point of visiting Chamberlin Rock and the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill.

My hope is the University will choose to keep both iconic installations.

It's important for Black Student Organizations to understand that these demands are not furthering the cause of racial justice.

They are a distraction from the real work that needs to be done in our community to lift people up, not tear things down.

Sincerely,

Susan Spahn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: I support your June 25 statement on the status of the Abraham Lincoln statue
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:47:24 AM

David,

Thanks for your email to Chancellor Blank, she appreciated your message.

Greg Bump
University Communications

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: In Solidarity with WBSU
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:53:01 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: In support of BSU's Demands, with my own reasons at bottom
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 3:46:48 PM

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

I am sure you have seen this email many times over by now. I am in full support of the removal of these landmarks because, while they have a rich history and potentially positive associations, they are hurting a population on our campus. I firmly believe that the UW community has enough ingenuity to create even richer traditions surrounding monuments that do not offend an important part of the community. Afterall, the football season was not diminished after Nail's Tails came down. While Abe and Chamberlain Rock might be missed, the University does not grow by clinging to the past, but by making conscientious steps forward while *acknowledging* the past, good and bad. We take pride in being innovators in so many disciplines, let us be innovators in tradition, inclusivity, and social justice also.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Interview request
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:12:10 AM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

Hope you are doing well. My name is [REDACTED], and I am a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

I am currently working on a project looking into the debate over removing statues from the UW-Madison campus (Abe Lincoln, Chamberlin Rock) and other names of buildings deemed offensive by some. I'm writing an article exploring both sides of the debate and would love to hear your perspective on the issue.

I would be grateful if you could find the time to answer some of my questions. My deadline is Monday, October 5th. I would be happy to schedule a zoom or talk over the phone, but if these aren't viable options you can also answer by email. If Chancellor Blank nor someone from her office would be able to meet this week, I would also accept a statement. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I look forward to your response.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:34:51 AM

I am an ordinary American citizen. [REDACTED] Please don't allow your university's statue of Lincoln to be taken down. No human being if their whole life is looked at has no fault. But Lincoln played a valuable part of our American history. America is being torn apart. What will our grandkids and their kids have left of what we had growing up. I was raised to love all men, to honor my brothers and sisters in arms, respect the flag of the United States, to not hurt another human being. Those were all things I learned from a good moral and educational life. Please fight to keep your Lincoln standing. Sincerely, Cyndi Hutchinson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 11:46:15 AM

I've seen reports that some UW students are demanding that Lincoln be removed from the campus. I am an alum of both the Business school and the Law school. I sure hope that this request will not even be considered. Please be advised that if the statue is removed with the blessing of the school, I will be mailing my BBA and JD degrees back to you as worthless pieces of paper.

Tammy Grant
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:30:45 PM
Attachments: [WSJ Op-Ed re Monuments.pdf](#)

Dear Chancellor Blank:

I strongly oppose the removal of the Bascom Hill statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Please read the attached op-ed from the *Wall Street Journal*. We honor Lincoln because of what he did. Against almost insurmountable odds, he: 1) saved the union, 2) ended slavery, and 3) secured the right for black men to vote. Any one of these three would be worthy of a statue on top of Bascom Hill. In the process of accomplishing all this he gave first his health, and then his life. Lincoln had a vision for Reconstruction that, had he lived and been able to implement, might have mitigated many of the racial problems the country has faced.

The argument for taking the statue down seems to be that some people are offended by things that Lincoln might, or might not, have said more than 160 years ago, with no study of the context within which they were said. For us outside of the PC, progressive, “woke” bubble that is UW-Madison today, it seems like an easy call to keep the statue. If the Black Student Union has a legitimate problem with the education they are receiving at UW-Madison, it sure isn’t the fault of poor old Abe. Don’t blame “systemic racism”. You, your D&I staff, and the faculty are the system. Take responsibility. And if you think the Black Student Union, or any other group or individual is wrong, please have the courage to say so. Don’t try appeasement, it only works temporarily. Once you’ve proven you can be pushed around, they will be back for more.

You should keep the Lincoln statue up because it is the right thing to do. Please note, however, that if the statue is removed, or defaced with a sign saying such nonsense like Lincoln was “controversial” and his “legacy is complicated”, I will quit giving to UW-Madison. In your world, I’m not a big deal. I give \$4,000 a year. I could give a lot more, but I’ve become disenchanted that the values of the UW-Madison administration and faculty keep moving further away from my personal values and the values of most people in the state of Wisconsin. Although my contribution won’t matter whether or not you can balance the budget, please note that I’m the proverbial tip of the iceberg. There are many, many more alumni who will quit giving without bothering to write you a letter.

[REDACTED]

Stop the Vandals, Then Rethink the Monuments

By Jeffrey Collins

For America's mayors and governors confronting the vandalism of public monuments, London Mayor Sadiq Khan might provide an example—and a cautionary tale. He recently encased many of the city's public statues in wood to protect them from vandalism. They now await a public commission tasked with reviewing monuments.

Included in Mr. Khan's mottoballing was a bronze likeness of King James II that stands in Trafalgar Square. There is something ludicrous about Mr. Khan's fears for James, who reigned from 1685-88. True, the king doesn't conform to society's current "values." He would probably be torn down for his investments in the slave trade. He was also a despot who believed in the divine right of kings. He wasn't much of a police reformer, preferring to have offenders drawn and quartered. King James offers potentially limitless offense to our sensibilities.

Yet the public's abject historical ignorance probably would have saved the statue from being specifically targeted, even without the mayor's intervention. Figures from many centuries past tend to be too far gone to draw attention. In the case of James II, his statue is little more than a historical artifact. First erected in 1686 on the Palace of Whitehall grounds, it celebrates absolute monarchy. It portrays James dressed as a Roman emperor, a sovereign both timeless and semi-divine. This ideology was controversial even then, but it was sufficiently venerable that James's political foes spared his statue when they dethroned him. It was moved several times and neglected, but never destroyed.

It has stood in its present spot since 1947, by which time its ideological purpose had long been obso-

lete. Still, it was valued for its historical importance and artistic merit—the statue was made in the studio of the great English sculptor Grinling Gibbons. To hunt for reasons to destroy it seems gratuitous at best, spiteful at worst.

How much more gratuitous and malicious, then, is the destruction of monuments with a public purpose that is still venerated? Take Winston Churchill, also hidden away by Mr. Khan. The great prime minister was an imperialist who held questionable attitudes toward "subject races." He is remembered primarily for rallying the Western world to resist fascism. That he was an imperialist, or even a Tory, is largely forgotten by the public. Thousands of streets, parks and schools bear Churchill's name. Scrubbing it from the public culture would be a vast undertaking.

And to what end? To disparage the purpose of these memorials—antifascism—as less important than punishing Churchill for his human failures. There is a strange disconnect between the assertion of ubiquitous, unconscious "systematic" racism or sexism, and the effort to expiate these sins by stigmatizing individuals made to embody them.

Consider the purpose of each statue, not only how it makes people feel today.

Such judgmental zeal would claim victims left and right. Margaret Sanger would be doomed as a eugenicist, Franklin D. Roosevelt for his internment camps and so forth. Nor will small gestures suffice. If the local statue of Thomas Jefferson needs to come down, why not the Jefferson Memorial? If some obscure dormitory must be renamed for connection to slavery or racism, why not Yale University itself?

This is not to suggest that changing times might not render a given

public monument intolerable. A simple test might ask: What was the purpose of this monument? What was it intended to honor? If that purpose is either historically dead and thus safely inoffensive (James II) or historically alive and still valued (Churchill), we should avoid devising rationales of condemnation.

The "why" test would doom most statues of Stalin, for instance. Those monuments never represented a shared purpose, and certainly don't now. It might allow some Confederate memorials (such as those remembering the dead), but disallow those celebrating slavery or rebellion. By and large such a "why" test would leave public monuments in peace. Commemorations of Ulysses Grant celebrate him for winning the Civil War, not for waging war on Native Americans. Jefferson is honored for writing the Declaration of Independence, not for holding slaves.

Monuments aren't erected in a spirit of blind idolatry. They commemorate particular achievements

of imperfect people. There are other mechanisms—schools, documentaries, museums—that instruct us on the flaws of our forbears.

Rather than the "why" question, lately society prefers the "me" question: How does this monument offend me, or my community? What overlooked imperfection of its subject makes me feel unwelcome or "unsafe"? These feelings are understandable. There are sound reasons why the Irish don't celebrate Cromwell and Indians might feel ambivalent about Churchill.

But if the public space is shaped by an ever-escalating tide of affront, little will survive except passing embodiments of our current sensibilities. A culture of ceaseless contestation would result, a narcissistic society unable to imagine past times—or future ones—that don't accept all of our orthodoxies.

Mr. Collins is an associate professor of history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

From: [Meredith Mcglone](#)
To: [UR Council](#); [Stakeholders](#)
Subject: Lincoln statue
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:04:23 PM

Colleagues,

In response to public and media inquiries about the Lincoln statue, we are providing the following statement from Chancellor Blank to those who have asked about it. At this time it is not being broadly distributed.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

Best,
Meredith

Statement from Chancellor Blank:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from [land expropriated from Native Americans](#).

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address system racism and oppression

and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to [the resources and initiatives](#) already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Lincoln statue
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:58:03 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing as a parent of an incoming freshmen and just as an interested party. I have been following the story about the student groups lobbying for the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue on campus. I will keep this very short and succinct, if this happens, or if you even entertain this idea, I will be pulling my kid from that school as fast as I can. That is really all the time I need, but thank you for your consideration and please do the right thing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Listen to UW BSU and make these changes
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:43:59 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is Sally Herman. [REDACTED] and witnessed firsthand the racism and systemic oppression that is rife in our city. I have watched as my fellow white liberals post Black Lives Matter signs in their yards, and then wring their hands, saying how supportive they are of Black families and students and how terrible it is that they are not succeeding in school systems designed to fail them. I have watched these neighbors then proceed to do absolutely nothing about it. Wisconsin Black Student Union has made demands of concrete actions you have the power to take, and I stand in solidarity with these demands

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

I demand that you take immediate action, rather than making statements full of empty words, pointing to changes that have already been made, or promising that these things are in the works. You can be better than the classic White Madison liberals that make up a lot of this town and set a good example for them.

Yours respectfully,

Sally Herman

--

Thanks,
Sally Herman

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: MADISON FOR BLACK LIVES
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:29:50 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 12:00:02 PM

I have no connection to the University of Wisconsin. But I have been an admirer....until now.

I am a physician, graduate of an Ivy League school and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was thus with incredible dismay that

I learned of your actions with regard to Frederick March, a respected actor and American, from Dr. McWhorter's column in the Times.

Before I use this as an example of ignorance and mob rule at a University where truth is supposed to reign, I wanted to ask you if this lunacy about Mr. March is correct.

Is this an example of a bloated administration, acting out of stupidity and laziness about the truth, caving in to an even less educated student group or is this just rumor not worth the paper on which it is written. If true, you have done a great University a terrible disservice, for it will join the annals of examples of university hubris, lack of the very education it purports to espouse and downright thoughtless reverse bigotry.

Thank you

Bruce Smoller MD

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:26:35 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although Black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Need for Solidarity
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:49:44 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a business student at UW-Madison, and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Note re:Removal of Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:07:43 AM

Today I read a report re:UW Madison on CNN. If an outsider reads the comments made by those involved in removal of Chamberlin Rock, you begin to realize the absurdity of so many things.

A rock that was harmful because some negligent journalist, reporter, editor, etc in 1925 made a reference to a rock using the "n" word, which evidently almost 100 yrs later, is still being used about the rock. The poor innocent rock, dated from 2 billion years perhaps, just stood for that word? Was Chancellor or President Chamberlin also considered racist? I do not know. Obviously he is not here to defend himself. Isn't it strange how quickly we judge these people from our nation's past and discard them?

Certainly diversity is at top of UW goals as it should be. I am sure there is so much pressure to act on these statues, artifacts, symbols, now a rock. Next, I will be asked to donate to to removal of my heroes: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Carver, historical figures I have read about since childhood.

Fifty thousand dollars, even from private funds, could be used in many ways.

I will tell my family members in Seattle WA who seek out glacial erratics not to look for one at U of W.

Wishing you a good and safe school year.
Best wishes for UW academic year!

Mary E Pavelick
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: DANIELLE M BRZEZINSKI
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Office of the Chancellor; Office of the Chancellor; president@uwsa.edu; info@tonyever.com; governor@wisconsin.gov; ltgov@wisconsin.gov; UW-Madison Chief Diversity Officer; Union President; Union External; Mark Guthier; Susan Dibble; ELIZABETH SNODGRASS; Shauna Breneman; Niki Denison; Leonora Neville; Stephen Kantrowitz; William Cronon; James Sweet; Kacie Lucchini Butcher; CHRISTIAN OVERLAND; president@100blackmenmadison.org; Greg Jones; [REDACTED]; Ethelene Whitmire; Center for Jewish Studies Director; GSteinberger@uwhillel.org; Jim Healy; David Bordwell; Kathleen Culver; contactus@uwbadgers.com; SUSAN W YACKEE; Chad Alan Goldberg; obrown@bigten.org; Leavitt@uwosh.edu; Alexander Hummel; gradyd@uwosh.edu; Stephen Kercher; Jane Purse-Wiedenhoef
Subject: On Behalf of Mark Guthier: Frederick March Response
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 1:16:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mr. Gonis,

Thank you for your recent letter in support of actor and UW-Madison alumnus Fredric March. We appreciate the time and effort you have taken to research and assemble this material.

We fully acknowledge the prolific acting career and civil rights record of Mr. March, but also note the present-day effect of his and others' participation in a student organization that took the name of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

The Wisconsin Union at UW-Madison has been governed by a student-majority governing board since 1928 – including during the time when Mr. March's name was added to our Play Circle Theater within Memorial Union in 1978 and again when students determined his contributions should be recognized in another manner.

Last week, Chancellor Rebecca Blank outlined her support for the name change of the Play Circle Theater within our Memorial Union. The full piece can be accessed here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/22/opinion/letters/university-wisconsin-race.html>

Chancellor Blank continues to concur with the Union Council decision and there are no plans for the institution to revisit the issue.

Unlike what some have charged, we have not 'erased' anyone's name from the Union. Mr. March is now included in a historic storytelling display on the same floor as the Play Circle, with the following entry. This will be the ongoing recognition of his role in our university's history.

From Banker to Broadway

UW Alumnus Makes an Impact

With dreams of becoming a banker, Fredric Bickel attended UW-Madison, graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in commerce. He was an active undergrad, but his scholastic career was put on hold when WWI broke out. Leaving banking behind, March served for two years as an artillery officer. After the war, he was finally able to start his career as a banker. However, an emergency appendectomy caused him to reevaluate his life.

As an undergraduate, Fredric was actively involved in several honorary societies and clubs, including the Edwin Booth Dramatic Society. In 1920, when he decided to redirect his career, he fell back on his acting skills, playing an extra in various New York City productions. By 1926, he had signed a contract with Paramount Pictures and had changed his name to Fredric March. He won an Oscar for Best Actor in 1932 for his appearance in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and again in 1947 for the Best Years of Our Lives. He is one of two actors in the world to have won two Oscars and two Tony Awards. In 1958, March was presented with an honorary doctorate of humanities from UW-Madison. March passed away in 1975 at the age of 77.

As an actor, March fought Nazism. He, along with Dorothy Parker, Fritz Lang, and Oscar Hammerstein, were principal founders of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League. In 1939, March and his wife Florence were awarded the Badge of Tolerance by The National Conference of Christians & Jews and in 1945, March also received the Eisenhower Medal as the actor who contributed most to democracy.

The Play Circle Theater was dedicated to March in 1978.

See the full posting <https://uwunionstory.org/story/1929/from-banker-to-broadway>

We know this is not the answer you were looking for related to the naming of the Play Circle, but we wanted to acknowledge your letter and share our decision on this matter.

Mark Guthier
Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Director, Memorial Union



Mark C. Guthier
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
& Director of the Wisconsin Union
He/Him/His
University of Wisconsin-Madison
800 Langdon Street | Madison WI 53706 | 608-263-4463
mark.c.guthier@wisc.edu
www.studentaffairs.wisc.edu

From: [Bethke, Karl J](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Opposition to removal of Chamberlin Rock
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:35:37 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I m a proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin, having earned degrees in Geology and Geophysics. In the six years I spent as a student and teaching assistant in that department I never once heard any student, faculty, staff, or anyone else refer to Chamberlin Rock using any racial slur what-so-ever. It appears the alleged racial slur occurred nearly a hundred years ago in a newspaper that had/has no ties or affiliation with the University.

A racist rock? Really? This is so outrageous it is hard to believe that anyone could take this seriously, let alone the University planning on spending tens of thousands of dollars to remove it.

I fully understand the Black students flexing their political muscle. However, for the University to acquiesce to the removal of this geologically and historically significant rock would be a travesty.

Sincerely,
Karl Bethke

Sent from my iPad

From: [Wojtek Zarzycki](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Pick up of Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 2:34:10 PM

Chancellor Blank,

It has come to my attention that the students at your University have voted to remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

[REDACTED], I personally understand what it means to be free, to live in a free country and the grandiose illusion of a socialist utopia.

I would be honored, at my own cost, to pick up and remove this statue from your university and donate it to a town here in [REDACTED] that would provide it with the proper respect that it deserves.

Best regards,
Wojtek Zarzycki
CEO
Emerald Pacific Resources

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: President Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 11:46:34 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I am a U.W. Madison 1984 graduate and now a father paying tuition to U.W. Madison for my son, grudgingly because I am disappointed by my Alma Mater in a number of ways.

I implore you to not give in the student government's recent vote to remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln from the top of Bascom Hill.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Quick reach out to you personally.
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 11:44:01 AM

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to reach out to you and applaud your actions to keep the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. I am again seeing articles saying that UW students unanimously voted to remove it, and this couldn't be farther from the truth. It seems the vast majority of students do not want it removed. It is a shame to see history being erased in this wild time. As a UW Madison Geological Engineering undergraduate, I speak for me and quite a group of people in my circles and we all thank you for standing strong on issues like this and not caving to the demands of the loud and the triggered. Thank you so very much for the wonderful work. Have an excellent day!

[REDACTED]

From: [A G](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: RE: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:21:33 PM

Thank you for your response, I am somewhat relieved. I am overwhelmed at the idea of our Country's history being erased and find I can no longer support radical thinking on this level. I will most definitely take your words to heart.

Regards,

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:18 PM

To: A G < >

Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: A G <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 5:10 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln

Dear Sir,

Recently I read that the UWM is contemplating taking down the Statue of Abraham Lincoln. It is astonishing that places of learning would dismantle history and our past. We learn from our past. I have decided my children in two and 4 years respectively, will not be applying for admission. I will no longer donate or visit.

Sadly,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [EMILY Q HENKEN](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Ask Bucky](#)
Cc: [SARAH SPLINTER](#); [Monica Ruppert](#); [Stephanie Benson-Gonzales](#)
Subject: RE: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:20:59 AM

Thanks for responding and sharing this text, John. We will plan to use this language for any future emails we receive.

Emily

Emily Henken | Assistant Director of Operations and Engagement
Campus and Visitor Relations
University of Wisconsin-Madison
emily.henken@wisc.edu | 608-265-9501
1308 W. Dayton St. Madison, WI 53715
info.wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Cc: SARAH SPLINTER <ssplinter2@wisc.edu>; EMILY Q HENKEN <emily.henken@wisc.edu>; Monica Ruppert <mtruppert@wisc.edu>; Stephanie Benson-Gonzales <stephanie.bensongonzales@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock

Thanks, I'm happy to respond to this one—for info, the language is below. (Also looping in Stephanie and Monica, as I expect this one will light up.)

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and Wunk Sheek and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision.

Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: SARAH SPLINTER <ssplinter2@wisc.edu>, EMILY Q HENKEN <emily.henken@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock

Hi John,

Sharing as an FYI. We do not plan to respond unless we hear differently from you.

Thanks,

Emily

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

The future of America is dire when institutions are forced to capitulate to spoiled and pampered children who have yet to contribute productively to society.

You know the people who fight not real threats but symbolic ones such as rocks, words and dead people. If a person can not function because a rock hurt their feelings then they are the weakest stock of people American has ever produced.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Chancellor's Assistant UW-Madison](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: RE: I support your June 25 statement on the status of the Abraham Lincoln statue
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:35:44 AM

Thanks for checking. John usually sends the reply / acknowledgement!

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Chancellor's Assistant UW-Madison <assistant@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: I support your June 25 statement on the status of the Abraham Lincoln statue

Hi Dianna -- Do you send this type of correspondence or does John usually do it?

From: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: I support your June 25 statement on the status of the Abraham Lincoln statue

Please send an acknowledgement of this email. Thanks.

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership
161 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9946

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: I support your June 25 statement on the status of the Abraham Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor Blank:

Your statement took into account the totality of Lincoln's actions and the complexities we face as we strive to improve who we are and how we behave.

Sincerely,

David DeWahl
BA class of 1976
UW-Madison
School of Letters and Science
Economics major

From: [Ingrid E Gottfried](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: RE: Lincoln Statue
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:33:44 PM

Thank you. I was actually responding to her statement in my email.

Ingrid Gottfried

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Ingrid E Gottfried <ingrid.gottfried@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ingrid E Gottfried <ingrid.gottfried@wisc.edu>
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:47 AM
To: Rebecca Blank <rebecca.blank@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

Dear Becky,

Nothing will change until we acknowledge what the younger generation is trying to tell us. We need to accept the education offered to us and help to educate others. Therefore, I believe we need to publicize, next to the Lincoln statue, the very points that keep the black community from feeling accepted. Only then can we move forward.

If you've never been part of a minority, you don't know what it's like to be disrespected and ignored. It is like you don't exist. We need to open our eyes to what black people have been experiencing all their lives, that we accept, and condone by doing nothing.

It doesn't cost anything to do land acknowledgements. The crime is done. However, you can heal the past wrongs now with your acknowledgement that evil was done and was wrong. Only that will move us forward.

We can be part of the future by opening eyes, or hang back and say, "Oh, it's not that big a deal." Because it IS.

Thank you.
Ingrid Gottfried

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); ["Michael Knetter"](#); ["Jennifer McFarland"](#); ["Betsy Popelka Massnick"](#)
Cc: ["Judy Sherkow"](#); [enr-dean engr.wisc.edu](#); [David Noyce](#); [Cathleen Walters](#)
Subject: RE: UW Is at the Crossroads
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 5:47:58 PM

John:

Thank you for the response. In your support of the Lincoln statue, I recommend that you be prepared to protect it.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED])

From: Office of the Chancellor [mailto:chancellor@wisc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]; 'Michael Knetter'; 'Jennifer McFarland'; 'Betsy Popelka Massnick'
Cc: Judy Sherkow; enr-dean engr.wisc.edu; David Noyce; Cathleen Walters
Subject: Re: UW Is at the Crossroads

[REDACTED],

Thank you so much for your support of UW-Madison and the College of Engineering. We apologize for the delay in responding.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus and has no plans to move it. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed.

However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

Chancellor Blank has stated that she believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued.

We have heard from many alumni and donors on this topic and appreciate you sharing your views.

John Lucas
Assistant Vice Chancellor/Communications

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:49 PM

To: 'Michael Knetter' <michael.knetter@wfaamail.com>, 'Jennifer McFarland' <Jennifer.mcfarland@wfaamail.com>, 'Betsy Popelka Massnick' <Betsy.Massnick@supportuw.org>

Cc: Judy Sherkow <sherkow@earthlink.net>, "enr-dean engr.wisc.edu" <enr-dean@enr.wisc.edu>, David Noyce <danoyce@wisc.edu>, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: RE: UW Is at the Crossroads

Dear UW Folks:

I haven't heard back from you. Now, *as I feared*, there are those sick people at UW or in Madison that want the Lincoln statue torn down from in front of Bascom Hall.

Let me be very clear – **OUR continued support for UW include my multi-million dollar bequest is CONDITIONAL on keeping and protecting this statue.** See my conditions below.

The statue is the “canary in the coal mine.” If UW can be pressured into removing the statue of the President that freed the slaves, then it can be pressured into anything!

We are waiting for a reply to my earlier email (see below). ***You now have 30 days!***

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:17 PM

To: 'Michael Knetter'; 'Jennifer McFarland'; 'Betsy Popelka Massnick'

Cc: Judy Sherkow (sherkow@earthlink.net); 'enr-dean@enr.wisc.edu'; 'danoyce@wisc.edu'; 'chancellor@news.wisc.edu'

Subject: UW Is at the Crossroads

The University of Wisconsin is at the crossroads, again. And our multi-million gift (and those of like minds) to UW is at risk.

I was on campus (trying to get to class) the last time radicals decided that THEY should rule the planet. I was trapped in my dorm room breathing tear gas and watching battles between police and radicals. Not only was the University turned upside-down, but Sterling Hall was bombed and a grad student was killed. **Do you remember his name?** I do.

*Dane County police and Madison firefighters carry the body of **Robert Fassnacht**, 33, from UW-*

Madison's Sterling Hall after the graduate student was killed in a bombing targeting the Army Math Research Center, which was in that building.

Now, radicals are spreading they poison again, trying to pit one group again another and imposing their sick philosophy on everyone. The University must stand against this horrible trend. If it does not, then we (and others like us) cannot support its future. And, that would be too bad.

The last time the University was at the crossroads, it and the City **failed**. It failed the students. It failed the taxpayers and citizens. It failed the Wisconsin Idea (The Wisconsin Idea is the pledge to the state, the nation, and the world that its endeavors will benefit all citizens).

You'll probably hear from the radicals about their "demands" about social justice and other issues.

Now, you'll hear our demands:

1. You must protect and not move the statue of Lincoln
2. No name changes of buildings or streets for "social justice" reasons
3. No disrespect of the flag or anthem at sporting events or other University functions
4. No required "orientation courses" about social justice or other similar subjects
5. No hiring of more University administrative staff or faculty to "educate" or monitor staff or students about how bias everyone is
6. No courses about anti-white, anti-capitalism, or anti-America subjects; and no textbooks about these subjects
7. No painting slogans on streets or buildings that are harmful or intimidating to one group or another
8. No removal or deconstruction of historical images or records
9. No hiring of faculty or appointments to committees based on race or gender
10. No contributions by UW to race-based or religion-based organizations, and no formal association with these groups
11. No deconstruction of female athletics by allowing or advocating non-biological "female" participation in women's athletic events

If you agree, that's great. If not, just let us know. It will save everyone much time and effort. **You are at the crossroads . . . Again.** What are you going to do?



[REDACTED]

From: [Jim Mottern](#)
To: waa@uwalumni.com
Cc: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Racist Rock?
Date: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 1:34:11 PM

Thank you Emily for your response. I now know much more thanks to you.

I can honestly say that I had never heard of the Chamberlin Rock until groups protested its placement on the University of Wisconsin campus. The campus is huge and the rock is obscure.

However, what I can say is that continued agitation to call everything racist at the University of Wisconsin is eroding respect and support for the university. Combining this bad publicity with the Wisconsin capitol vandalism and the State Street damage earlier this year is just not good for anything.

First the demand to remove the Lincoln statue (which I hope stays) and now the demand to remove the Chamberlain Rock based on a newspaper article 95 years ago. What is next, the "red" gym (the old building next to the Memorial Union) and the painted German dwarfs in the Rathskeller?

Are there still adults at the University of Wisconsin?

Jim

Jim Mottern


From: Customer Service WAA [<mailto:waa@uwalumni.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 6:45 AM
To: Jim Mottern
Subject: Re: Racist Rock?

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your email regarding Chamberlin Rock.

Since the summer of 2020, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union, Wunk Sheek (an organization that serves students of indigenous identity), and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site of

the Ho-Chunk Nation.

While this all is not yet final, we understand that alumni may have strong feelings about these events. If you'd like to offer further thoughts, we would suggest emailing Chancellor Blank at chancellor@wisc.edu.

We hope this information is helpful, and again appreciate you taking the time to contact us

Thank you,

Emily Toboyek

Alumni Services
Wisconsin Alumni Association*
650 N. Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706
waa@uwalumni.com
Voice: 608.262.2551

** a division of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association*

On Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 7:53 PM Jim Mottern <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear University of Wisconsin Alumni Association,

I have been told that the University of Wisconsin has a rock that is considered racist. Is this true and what is the background?

Thank you.

On Wisconsin.

Jim

Jim Mottern
[REDACTED]

From: [Carrie Moore](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 9:33:05 AM

Dear Chancellor Blank:

All land everywhere has been expropriated from someone else. Why would the head of a university make such a simple-minded claim and then attempt to scapegoat one group?

STOP APOLOGIZING. Your nonsensical statements will be the downfall of the university. There is nothing to apologize for and you are making the UW a laughingstock by doing so. You are not even an alumna and you are not from Wisconsin. Therefore you have no right to speak for Wisconsin and you are expropriating a position that belongs to a Wisconsin native. Now perhaps you can understand how ill-informed, weak, and silly your statement is.

I wonder if you have any idea how angry you are making the hundreds of thousands of alumni across the U.S. when you make statements like this.

Support for the UW will dry up if this continues. You have betrayed the very people who made the university great.

Carrie Moore


HISTORY '82

> On Oct 31, 2020, at 9:11 PM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

>

> Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

>

> “As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

>

> “We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

>

> “The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

>

> “As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

>

>

> Office of the Chancellor

> University of Wisconsin-Madison

> chancellor@wisc.edu

>

>

> On 10/31/20, 8:16 PM, "Carrie Moore" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Chancellor Blank:

>

> I am an alumna of the UW (1982). The Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill is my mo

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re:
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:27:31 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:24 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: <no subject>

In NO WAY should the statue of Lincoln be TOUCHED!!!!!! a few LEFT WING RACIST BIGOTED FACISTS do NOT have more RIGHTS than the majority of AMERICANS!!!!!! WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THESE THUGS TRYING TO CONTROL US AND TAKE OUR COUNTRY OUR RIGHTS OUR CULTURE OUR CONSTITUTION AND OUR HISTORY AWAY!!!!!! this INSANITY IS NOT ABOUT "slavery"!!!! It's about THE LEFT WING RACIST BIGOTED FACIST TERRORISTS TRYING TO DELETE OUR HISTORY TO DELEGITIMIZE OUR NATION!!!!!!

NOT GOING TO TOLERATE THIS BLATANT LEFT WING FACIST BULLCRAP!!!!!! we have a GREAT NATION with GREAT HISTORY AND FOUNDING FATHERS!!!!!! AMERICA is NOT a RACIST COUNTRY!!!!!!

These RACIST FACISTS ARE EVIL!!! they are trying to DESTROY OUR COUNTRY by any and all means, INCLUDING this BULLCRAP made up "everyone's a racist" shit!!!!!!

NO TOUCHING THE LINCOLN STATUE!!!!!!

teach REAL AMERICAN HISTORY, NOT the revised version of LEFT WING FACIST HATERS!!!!!!

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re:
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:23:01 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:48 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: <no subject>
Resent-From: <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Resent-To: <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Resent-Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:48 PM

Sent from my mobile.

Chancellor ,
I'll make this short and to the point.
Durning these challenging times in the greatest county
In the world and the son of an alumni that graduated in 1953;
I'm very concerned that you are giving the green light to remove statues that
represent " history" that shaped our great nation.
We cannot tear down these symbols that represent present day advances ,
advances that made us who we areall lives matter , statues matter,
history matters.
Please reconsider you decision . Let's learn from this as we have learned and
must learn from history !
Thank you ,
Peter Samuelson

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re:
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:20:25 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 2:39 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: <no subject>

Abraham Lincoln statue stays up it is part of American history or is that your plan to stop people from understanding United States history.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 2020 Graduates
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 9:59:59 AM

[REDACTED] -- First and foremost, congratulations to [REDACTED] for completing what has been a very difficult semester.

We apologize that the Lincoln statue isn't currently available to graduates for photos, as has been our longstanding tradition. As you know, the health and safety of our students remains our top priority.

Student congregating in long lines down Bascom Hill, or at the base of the statue presents a real risk of Covid-19 transmission that does not align with public health guidance around social distancing. Further, the statue is a high-touch surface that cannot be disinfected between student uses.

We expect the statue to open again when it is safe and would encourage [REDACTED] to return in the future for a photo.
John Lucas
University Communications

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 5/6/20, 5:42 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms Blank,


My daughter, [REDACTED], completed her last exam this morning and is now a 2020 UW-Madison graduate. She went on Campus today with fellow grads to take pics on Bascom and a traditional pic with Abe. Unfortunately, Abe was fenced off. I am asking that you open access to Abe as a demonstration of respect for all the graduates that will not receive a traditional graduation. There's not a lot that makes up for a graduation in Camp Randall but there are MANY grads that would like to capture memories from their last four years on campus. Thank you from a parent that wants the best for their UW grad.

[REDACTED]

From: [Martin A. Preizler](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: A compromise to removing Lincoln's statue
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:16:31 AM

Thanks for the quick response. I appreciate you sharing it with the Chancellor.

Marty

Martin A. Preizler


On Jun 27, 2020, at 9:14 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Mr. Preizler,

Thanks for sharing your suggestion—it will be shared with Chancellor Blank. Please also see her complete statement on this issue, below.

John Lucas

University Communications

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Martin Preizler <[REDACTED]>
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 8:33 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: A compromise to removing Lincoln's statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I read the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) story about lobbying efforts to remove the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill. I empathize with the protestors perspective, but disagree with the proposal. I'm sure you are in a tough spot in dealing with this issue at a time when you're also addressing challenges of Covid-19. Perhaps a satisfactory solution would be to add another statue of a prominent Wisconsin African American historical figure of equal size and quality next to Lincoln. Ms. Vel Phillips comes to mind, although there are many inspiring, courageous role models in Wisconsin's African American history. The University's African American community could recommend their choices.

Thanks for your leadership.

Marty

Martin A. Preizler

[REDACTED]

BS 67, MS 86

Chair, Dept. of Sociology Board of Visitors

On! Wisconsin

map

Martin A. Preizler



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: ABE
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:30:54 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 6:37 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: ABE

Chancellor Blank- My wife and I are both UW Grads and we are appalled with the move by some groups to remove Abe's statue. These demands are way off base and only serve to hurt the mission of those groups. We are very proud to have Abe Lincoln on our beloved campus, but any effort to remove it must be stopped in its tracks. You are correct in that he can be celebrated and critiqued. Perhaps, US History 101, warts and all, should become a requirement for students.

Mike ('74) and Evelyn Burch ('73)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln Bascom hall
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 8:40:27 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/28/20, 2:24 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Chancellor,

I read the article about the group that wants the Abe statue removed from Bascom all.. I am in support of BLM but I feel this statue needs to stay. I feel the University of Wisconsin should erect a statue near or next to Bascom hall of a famous African American that has ties to the UW. I personally feel that will help bring the community together. It'll show the UW cares about all people, no matter what the color of their skin is.

Thanks for taking the time and On Wisconsin!

Noah Bolton
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln Statue, other statues at UW; and riots
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:20:14 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/27/20, 3:09 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

I am disgusted to hear that a UW Madison student and BLM member is trying to tear down the Abe Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill! You need to make sure that Abe or other statues on the UW campus are NOT allowed to be torn down and are protected by campus security or you will lose my future contributions and any possible future charitable remainder trust consideration.

Jim Heleniak
BBA 1971

Privacy statement: do not release my name or this communication outside of your immediate offices.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:17:24 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 10/30/20, 7:49 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hello,

Just want to let you know if the statue of Abe Lincoln is removed from the top of Bascom Hill I will actively reach out to all my UW graduates to end all of our donations to the University.

Where will the UW be without alumni donations??

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln on Bascom Hill
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:53:38 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/2/20, 11:48 AM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Dear Chancellor Blank;

As a 1966 UW Alum I strongly oppose the removal of Abe from Bascom Hill. I also believe our Alum should weigh in on this controversy. After all, a several few of us very well remember polishing his nose on Halloween. He truly is as much a part of UW history and culture as Bascom Hall.

Sincerely,
Denis Del Ponte
BSME Class of '66

Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln statue
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 5:31:20 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 8:02 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe Lincoln statue

I just heard about the student body wanting to take down the statue Abe Lincoln. As an alumni I find this unacceptable. This statue has been a part of the history and does not reflect white supremacy.

My monetary support will stop if this action is taken seriously by the University of Wisconsin.

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln statue
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 8:39:57 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 2:48 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abe Lincoln statue

As a 50 year plus alumni of the UW School of Pharmacy I sincerely hope that UW and you are vehemently opposed to any change to the Abe Lincoln statue. I welcome free speech for all Americans and my view point is to leave this statue alone and to make sure it is not damaged by anyone. I am reminded of Abe every morning when I proudly put on my UW School of Pharmacy class ring which is inscribed with Abe Lincoln on one side and my professional BS degree on the other side.

John H. Wagner, R.Ph. 1969

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [markandbev](#)
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:56:52 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: markandbev [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 3:36 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe Lincoln

Dear Chancellor Blank:

I am a proud 1979 UW grad. I have also been a football season ticket holder since 1982. Please stand up to the anarchists who want to take down the beloved Abe Lincoln statue!! We are all flawed human beings. Just because someone like Lincoln was imperfect, you can't overlook the obvious fact that he saved the country and emancipated the slaves.

Some of my fellow alums have told me that they will cancel their tickets and never again support the UW should this happen.

Thank you for your time,
Mark Kaprelian

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Lincoln
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 11:01:52 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 10:57 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe Lincoln

Do not remove Abe Lincoln's statue.

John Wagner R.Ph.
UW School of Pharmacy
Class of 1969

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:55:49 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:39 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abe Statue

This note is for Chancellor Blank.

Madam Chancellor, with all the headlines and "discussion" at the UW about possibly removing Abe's statue from Bascom Hill I wanted to pass you my position. I'm a 1983 UW Grad and have been donating to the Univ regularly ever since - I know I'm not on the list for biggest donations, but I'm steady and consistent. That would stop, not a penny more - ever, the day Abe leaves the hill.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]

I just wanted to let you know my position on the topic.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Wayne Klimovitz](#)
Subject: Re: Abe statue
Date: Sunday, November 1, 2020 4:02:26 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Wayne Klimovitz <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 10:13 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe statue

Hello Chancellor,

Please do NOT remove Abe!!!

--

Wayne Klimovitz

BS-ME – 1984

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Abe's Statue in front of Bascom Hall
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:49:41 PM

Thank you for your prompt response. I appreciate your position and will support it, as long as you support mine.

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, 12:02:30 PM CDT, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:22 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe's Statue in front of Bascom Hall

I am a graduate of the Class of 1962. I hear and read a lot in the past few days about two small student groups demanding the removal of the subject statue for a couple of spurious reasons. Relative to that demand, I have this comment: If the U chooses to knuckle under to this "demand," I will never again contribute a penny to any program, fund or appeal sponsored by the University.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Meg Lenz](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Abe
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:44:54 AM

good to hear the great emancipator will not be removed

I don't agree with everything you said in your response.

But good to hear nonetheless

Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

> On Jul 1, 2020, at 9:31 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

>

> Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

>

> As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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> The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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>

> Office of the Chancellor
> University of Wisconsin-Madison
> chancellor@wisc.edu

>

>

> On 6/30/20, 6:22 PM, "Meg Lenz" [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> Do not remove the Lincoln statue.

>

> Meg Lenz

>

> Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

>

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abe
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:17:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >
Organization: GRN Chilton
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 3:44 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abe

I am an alumni, 2 kids are alumni and 1 more child to attend. We love being Badgers! I want to express our dismay with the vote from the students on wanting to remove Abe. Our family wants him to stay along with others. My 1 cent is if you bend to a few, you will lose many of us.

Thanks for reading,

Terry



We live and work by 3 Core Values - Honesty, Serving Others & Keeping our Commitments

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln - please don't remove him
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:29:48 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 11:28 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln - please don't remove him

Hello Chancellor.

I know there is a lot of stuff going on the world today and emotions are running high. Even in the face of common sense sometimes. As an alum and father of a current UW - Madison student I implore the UW not cave in to the folks requesting the removal of the Abraham Lincoln Statue out front of Bascom Hall.

He was a good man and a great American. A person we should all take cues from. A person who when you walk past the statue makes you feel proud to be an American and at the UW.

Thank you for your time. I know how busy you must be. Please keep up the good work.
Have a great day!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Bascom Hill
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 3:19:50 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 12:57 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln Bascom Hill

Dear Chancellor,

I am a 1995 alumni of the University of Wisconsin Law School. I walked up that hill every day. Lincoln has always been an inspiration. Bowing to the student vote to remove his monument would be a terrible example of throwing out tradition in the moment. Many of us Alumni would be deeply disappointed and would lose yet another symbol of our connection to the University. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the second of whom is looking at colleges right now (Wisconsin is his preference over Notre Dame, North Carolina, and Marquette by the way). I was surprised to learn that this decision bothered him as well. These symbols have deep and diverse meaning to lots of people. Please do not lightly remove them. Please work very hard to make sure that one difficult moment in time does not destroy generations of memories.

Joe Tierney '95

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Richard J Volz](#)
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Memorial
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:21:10 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Richard J Volz <rick.volz@us.ibm.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 8:12 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln Memorial

Chancellor Blank,

I understand there is a “movement” to request / demand the removal of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial on Bascom Hill. This would not only be a travesty to Alumni and the University but to the country as well. I understand the UW’s history of protest and liberal views but removal of this icon of our country and the university would go far too far.

Please do not succumb to the current pressure and radical efforts of this time.

Regards,

Rick Volz
BBA '85

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Bryan C. Esch](#)
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:29:15 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "Bryan C. Esch" <bce@dewittllp.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 11:22 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: "Bryan C. Esch" <bce@dewittllp.com>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I am contacting you regarding the Abraham Lincoln Statue at the top of Bascom Hill.

As a 1997 graduate of the UW Law School, the Lincoln Statue has significant meaning to me. I spent time with this statue, saw it most days for 3 years, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Regardless of his personal failings (measured in the lens of today's moral environment), Abraham Lincoln is the country's greatest president and one of the world's greatest men. No person is perfect and every human has, at one time or another, failed to live up to the ideal. The statue is a significant campus landmark and one that should be preserved for future generations.

I urge you to retain the statue in its current location and not bow to today's cancel culture. The complaints of a small group of malcontents should not cause you to remove it. Removing the statue would be a slap in the face to all alumni and supporters of the University.

Respectfully,

Bryan Esch

Bryan C. Esch

Partner & Executive Committee Member

Ph: 608.395.6767

F: 608.252.9243

bce@dewittllp.com

2 East Mifflin Street, Suite 600

Madison, Wisconsin 53703



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:09:01 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/2/20, 10:31 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Please do not give in to any protesters about removing your Lincoln statue. So much of our history is being destroyed and President Lincoln cared about everyone. We need to restore pride in our country. Thank you for taking this into consideration

Respectfully,
Victoria McGinnis

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:02:40 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/26/20, 9:39 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your strong message to keep the Abraham Lincoln statue on Bascom Hall. I appreciate your stance and please know how relieved we are that you have spoken out. We stand behind you. It would be a travesty to remove it voluntarily. Please proactively protect it!

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you on this.

[REDACTED]
Alums of UW Madison '89 & '91
Parent of current UW Madison student

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:07:55 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/25/20, 8:26 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As an alumni and a member of the CJS Board of Visitors, I implore you to stand your ground and resist the efforts to remove our beloved statue.

Personally I am totally in favor of the removal of Confederate or racist statues and memorials wherever they stand.

President Lincoln may be the greatest American of them all.

It saddens me that the memorial was conceived or created by an unacceptable individual, but Old Abe isn't to blame for that.

You have done an absolutely outstanding job of administering and representing our great University. Thank you.

Black Lives Matter.

On Wisconsin.

Richard Roberts, B.S. 1966
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: jan.sp
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 8:21:50 PM

Thank you for responding to my email about the Abraham Lincoln statue on the university's property. I appreciate the information that you included in your response.

I do not know exactly who is being included in your mission to educate and advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition, but I want to recommend that you listen to voices that I don't believe are usually heard on your campus.

The voices are those of conservative black people with highly respected credentials that will expand your groups knowledge and understanding. They are Dr. Carol Swain, Dr. Shelby Steele, Dr. Ben Carson, Dr. Thomas Sowell, Robert L. Woodson, Jason Riley, Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Allen West.

Jan Spillman

----- Original message -----

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: 7/2/20 9:21 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "jan.sp" [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "jan.sp" [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 8:01 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Please do not succumb to pressure to take down the statue of Abraham Lincoln. I am a concerned citizen living in Madison that some people are trying to rewrite history by taking down statues. The activists who are saying that Abraham Lincoln is an example of white supremacy don't seem to know history. Please protect the statue.

Sincerely,

Janis L. Spillman



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [David Rizzo](#)
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:12:09 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: David Rizzo [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 12:20 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Good afternoon Chancellor Blank,

Thank you for your enlightened comments on and timely support for the preservation of the statue of Abraham Lincoln that has graced the top of Bascom Hill for over 100 years. As a UW alum (JBA '74) I treasure revisiting the many sites that evoke special memories of my time on campus as a student, and none more so than the iconic sculpture of our country's 16th president.

Everyone's entitled to their opinion on whatever issue they care to comment on, but no one is entitled to demand that action be taken, or else. There's nothing wrong with being passionate, but when that passion treads harshly on the rights of others and when opinion morphs into threats then it ceases to be worthy of the ear of knowledgeable and responsible people.

David J Rizzo



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln / Bascom Hill
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 4:00:06 PM

Thanks for your messages. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding.

Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 3:51 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln / Bascom Hill

Good day Ms. Blank.

I reached out to you on 9/2/20 regarding football. My wife and I were happy to see that you voted to play - thank you.

As graduates from UW Madison in '84 and '90, we have always been proud to say that we are alumni of this great university. [REDACTED]

Recently we have seen press that there are factions of students who want the statue of Abe Lincoln removed. I find this unacceptable and these kids need to stop sanitizing our past because of the radical beliefs they have and that frankly is running rampant at our public universities.

I can unequivocally say that I would not support the University of Wisconsin if Abe Lincoln is removed from Bascom Hill. That would be a sad day.

Please take this and I am sure other viewpoints into consideration when people want to change our university. There are hundreds of thousands of alumni that have come before the current students. Their voice is louder and should be heard.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:30:15 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 7:18 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>, Office of the Chancellor
<chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln

Hello, Chancellor Blank -

As a 2009 alumnus of the University of Wisconsin School of Journalism and Mass Communication and a 2014 alumnus of the University of Wisconsin Law School, I write to commend you for your recent statement of support for the Abraham Lincoln statue on our beloved campus.

Your words accurately captured the sentiments of many alumni, and I have no doubt that they resonated with many students, faculty, staff, Regents, donors, taxpayers and other University stakeholders.

F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in 1936 that "the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function."

We can celebrate President Lincoln's legacy - particularly his commitment to enhancing the quality of American universities, including the University of Wisconsin, and his efforts to help more students attend college - while acknowledging that President Lincoln held some ideas that would not have withstood scrutiny had they been expressed some 155 years after he passed.

Thank you for elevating our great University as a place where careful and critical examination of our complicated history is promoted, rather than a place where reactionary, simplistic demands are indulged.

Jacob Harris



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:26:38 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 5:30 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

I am a graduate of UW-Madison. I have always supported my university and have attended many Badger football games over the years. I read with utter disgust that the black student union wants to remove the iconic statute of Abraham Lincoln. That is insane and ridiculous. And if a small number of angry, racist (yes, even black people hold racist views), unhappy, Marxist individuals get their way because certain guilt ridden white people cave to these modern day Nazis, it will cast a pall of shame forever on this university. I will, therefore, never set foot on the campus, withdraw any support whether financial or other, and never attend another football weekend nor spend a weekend at the Lowell Inn. If you allow a minority of small minded people who know nothing about history, and why should they since they've been inculcated in the school of feelings, I will ceremonially set fire all my badger wear in a complete and final farewell to a once great university.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:22:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]
Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below. UW-Madison has no plans to move the statue.

John Lucas
University Communications

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 7:50 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln

Good evening Chancellor Blank,

I was fortunate enough to attend UW from 1997 thru 2001 graduating with a bachelor degree in Business-Finance. I've been blessed to have a tremendous career to this point in my life and a bedrock to that success was my education at the University of Wisconsin. When I went to school the University was certainly a liberal environment; but an environment I respected as one that alternative opinions were able to be shared. It was also one that respected the great history of our nation; very different from today with the false narratives being spread with an attempt to eliminate the history of the United States. These are truly dangerous times and I fear for the future of our country, including the University.

I am extremely alarmed that the tradition of Abraham Lincolns statue at the top of Bascom Hill is now being threatened by factions of the University that I consider to be ill informed or have ill intent about the history of our great country and frankly, the world. Abraham Lincoln represents one of the greatest figures in the history of the world; someone who took very brave risks to do the right thing for humanity. While he certainly had flaws like all human beings do, he is widely respected as a man of integrity who changed the path of our country to the better. He ultimately paid for his sacrifices with his life. This can not ever be in question.

I write to inform you that if the University succumbs to this mob mentality and removes the statue of Abraham Lincoln, you will lose my support in perpetuity. I've made smaller donations to the UW over my career and as I'm starting to achieve more wealth and success in my career I am thinking more of how I give back both financially but also with my time. I know there are thousands of successful alumni as well as current students just like me who are of the similar opinion who represent the majority on this matter. I find no reason to associate myself with an institution that does not have the fortitude to continue to do the right thing; honoring the giants of American freedom, of which Abraham Lincoln is certainly one. To take his statue down would be a complete disgrace and frankly one of the more disgusting things I've witnessed as a citizen of this country.

I trust you will make the right decision and defend this symbol of not only the UW but also what the best of the United States represents. Myself and thousands of other successful alumni will be watching very intently on the decisions made from UW in this regard as well as others in the days/months/years ahead. Do the right thing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:18:59 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 5:54 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As a UW alumnus I was happy and proud to see you protect the statue of President Lincoln. I consider him the greatest leader our country has ever had, and drew inspiration every time I walked past the statue on my way between the limnology lab and Birge Hall. I think it may be easy to forget that historical figures like Abe were human, and can be forgiven for being imperfect - especially in light of great accomplishments such as his. I chalk down the recent calls for the removal to passion without wisdom, and I thank you for your broad vision.

Michael Sierszen
Ph.D. '88

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [Charles Hoslet](#); [John Lucas](#); [Tricia Nolan](#); [Benjamin Miller](#)
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:41:15 AM

Thank you very much.

I appreciate seeing this response.

I agree there are steps that can be taken to ensure a more color-blind society.

I agree that we need to study history for what we can learn from it without trying to erase it.

Hopefully history will always reveal that in the whole, people like Abraham Lincoln will deserve our admiration and gratitude. Same to be said for Washington, Jefferson and so many others that laid their lives on the line in order to create a country where Liberty and Justice for All will prevail.

Have a wonderful Wisconsin Day.

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 9:29 AM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 9:27 PM
To: Charles Hoslet <charles.hoslet@wisc.edu>, John Lucas <john.lucas@wisc.edu>, Tricia Nolan <tricia.nolan@wisc.edu>, Benjamin Miller <ben.miller@wisc.edu>, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln

Good Evening University Leaders

My name is [REDACTED]. I received my BS degree from UW Madison in 1969 and my MS in 1975. I subsequently got my EdD from Oklahoma State University [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and have been a

student of Abraham Lincoln most of my life. I even do first person presentations as Abraham Lincoln for various civic groups [REDACTED]. I have read volumes of material about Abraham Lincoln, including a lot of material that was written by or about him prior to 1890, so most of it is first person accounts.

[REDACTED]

I am a devoted Badger and love my University and all that it has meant in my life.

I am very disturbed to know that there are people looking at small segments of Abraham Lincoln's life and drawing the conclusion that his stature should be removed from Bascom Hill.

I certainly hope my university will never consider a move to change the iconic presence of Mr. Lincoln on Bascom Hill. The whole of his life was dedicated to justice and the right of every human being to be fairly treated. I cannot believe that any group of people, no matter their race, nationality or political party would put Mr. Lincoln in the category of "racist".

While I feel particularly concerned about the future image of Mr. Lincoln, I am almost as equally concerned about the effort to paint so many of our founding fathers based on today's standards rather than looking at the context of their actions and the outcome of their actions to create the very country which protects the rights of the minority to protest.

The protest is fine. The destruction of property is not. The desecration of memorials and statues that honor our history are not. I would ask just how "perfect" any of these vandals think they have been throughout their whole life and how they can now be so self-righteous as to think we should honor their wishes to erase history.

I am not a large donor, but if the administration of my university will not stand up for these historical figures who cannot come forth to argue their own cases, I will cease to support my university and will be very sad on that occasion.

Thank you for making your email addresses available. If there is someone more appropriate for me to express my concerns to, please let me know.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Abraham Lincoln statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:01:26 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 10:45 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Abraham Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor,

Please resist the efforts to remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln on Bascom Hill. He was not without flaws, who among us is? His actions to achieve the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, abolish slavery, and preserve the Union are a testament for the Ages. How does the removal of this memorial illuminate our path to a brighter future?

"Numen Lumen" "The divine within the universe, however manifested, is my light." John Lathrop, first chancellor of the University of Wisconsin.

On Wisconsin,

Elizabeth Calkins, '79

Peter Calkins, '78

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Administration Accountability and WBSU Demands
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:16:02 AM

H [REDACTED] —

Chancellor Blank asked me to send a reply on her behalf. UW leaders are in contact with WBSU and discussing the group's demands.

Most notably, plans are under way for the removal of Chamberlin rock, pending final discussion by the Campus Planning Committee.

Her view of the Lincoln Statue is that it should remain and her rationale is below:

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community.

I hope this information is helpful,
John Lucas
University Communications

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 11:38 AM
To: John Lucas <john.lucas@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Administration Accountability and WBSU Demands

If I've got one of these, I suspect there will be many more. Can your team draft a reply and send it from the general account?

Thanks.

B

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin - Madison
161 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-9946

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>
Subject: Administration Accountability and WBSU Demands

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Black,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a senior on campus studying psychology.

I am writing you in full solidarity with the Wisconsin Black Student Union's demands to have Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln statue removed. These monuments are living relics of the rampant racism that took place, and still take place, on our campus. It is deeply offensive that students of color are forced to pass by these racist monuments that are still widely celebrated by UW students and administration. Although students of color make up only a small percentage of our campus population, their voices deserve to be heard and valued.

In the midst of the largest social justice movement in modern history, you continue to pledge your support to students of color, but refuse to make changes that would appreciate, celebrate, and protect their existence on campus. With every email you send full of false promises and half-hearted declarations of solidarity with no tangible changes, you are

contributing to a culture on campus that is racist and devalues our students of color. I understand making unprecedented changes may seem scary and put your career at risk, but when you agreed to be our chancellor, you made a commitment to protect and serve ALL students, not just some of them. I demand you meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can move forward to ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for students of color as it is for white students, like myself.

We will not tolerate more waiting or compromising at the expense of students of color. This university already has a reputation for racist students, staff, and administration, which will only get worse as you sit back doing nothing. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands and prioritize the experiences of your Black students, Indigenous students, and students of color. Your immediate action is necessary and will set the tone for our fall semester.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Cancel culture
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:55:39 PM

Sent this to the chancellor.

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 13, 2020, at 8:53 PM, David McMahon <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Remember you represent all the citizens of Wisconsin that support the University through our taxes. To even consider the removal of Abraham Lincoln's statue at Bascom Hall disrespects the tradition of thousands of students. You are disregarding the history of the United States.

>

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlain Rock
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:10:40 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlain Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 12:44 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlain Rock

Please reconsider removing this beautiful geologic monument! I'm horrified that this could happen. As a UW alumnus, it was something I considered a beauty of nature when I lived in Liz Waters. I never heard anyone call it a niggerhead. And, so what....destroy something because there were some derogatory comments. It's criminal. Why not focus on real social problems. I'm disgusted with this. It's gone too far in the name of social justice. What's next?

Sincerely, Jodeen Hosmanek

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlain Rock
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 8:13:47 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlain Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

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We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 at 7:11 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlain Rock

Dear Chancellor Blank,

We find it appalling that the University plans to spend \$70,000 to remove a boulder on Bascom Hill. Recently, we received a desperate call from the UW Telefund to help fund Covid-19 precautions at the University, yet the University will spend \$70,000 to remove a rock. This is fiscally irresponsible and we can no longer contribute to a University that does not use its funding in a responsible manner.

When we graduated from the UW 25 years ago, we never imagined that a rock would be viewed as racist. What's next, tear down the entire campus? It will never be enough.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Gayle Martinson](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock - a compromise?
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:23:02 PM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

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We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Gayle Martinson <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 3:53 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock - a compromise?

Dear Chancellor Blank:

I read with sadness on the proposed disposition of Chamberlin Rock. I attended UW-Madison as an undergrad from 1971-1974 (off and on a bit) before graduating from UW-River Falls. I

received my M.A. in Library Science here in 1978.

My first semester was not a successful one.



I have often wondered about how differently my college experience at UW-Madison had turned out should I have known about the Lakeshore dorms. However, what does stand out in my first-semester memories is coming across Chamberlin Rock, the effigy mounds, and the great vista overlooking Lake Mendota. It was these more natural features of the campus that most affected me and to which I still hold emotional ties.

Further reading about the rock and its endurance in traveling from Lake Superior down to Madison during the glaciated period just further warmed my heart, and I feel distress over the removal of the rock.

I have spoken to my son at length about this. My four children are Black. Through them, I have grown considerably over the years it took to raise them and subsequent years in watching them become adults I am so proud of. My son, now in his thirties, remembers hearing about the rock called the racist name when he was younger. He heard it from a Black UW student. He attests, therefore, that the racist name used for the rock is a current theme or background for Black UW students.

I cannot understand or diminish the experience of Black students with this lore on campus. My experience with the rock is different. Both are valid. Both feelings have a right to exist. Yet the rock is only a rock. Racist verbiage has been applied to it. I also hold my personal feelings that there is so much that needs to be done both at the UW and in Madison towards an antiracist environment and elimination of systemic racism that the rock feels small.

I wonder if a compromise is possible at this late time. Might the Wisconsin Black Student Union be amenable to a suggestion that they rededicate this rock--that they speak to the endurance of this rock as a symbol of their own endurance and their right to reformulate the narrative and thrive on campus? Perhaps rededicate the rock, the UW places \$75,000 into a scholarship fund for Black students experiencing hardship and encourages others to donate to the Chamberlin Rock Fund for Black Student Endurance. Encourage a new tradition for Black students to go to this rock for strength, endurance, and their success in reformulating the narrative surrounding it.

I am sure I might be foolish and naive, but I like the compromise as it does not remove or destroy, and rather moves forward with creativity and understanding. Yet I also appreciate that this may not be possible. Whatever the outcome, I will remain committed to the university and its efforts to diversify itself, address systemic racism, and grow Black, Indigenous, Latino/Latina, Asian, and other students of color as educated UW alumni.

Sincerely,
Gayle Martinson

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock Removal
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:23:34 PM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 3:30 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock Removal

Dear Chancellor Blank,
[REDACTED] resident with one son who is an alum from UWMadison and another son who is finishing up at UW Milwaukee (We actually took his senior HS picture at the rock in question!). Today, I read a news article about a plan (and your implied support) of removing an

iconic and massive boulder from observatory hill because some 95 years ago, such large rocks on hilltops were sometimes (news to me) referred to by a disparaging moniker. If you knuckle to these frivolous cancel-culture demands and spend precious funds on such a ridiculous project, I will be very disappointed, as I also expect vast majority of your alumni would be. It is a large rock. On a hilltop. Let logic (science?) rule? Please!!

Regards,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [L GORDON MEDARIS](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:23:23 PM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

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We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: L GORDON MEDARIS <medaris@geology.wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 3:32 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: BRADLEY S SINGER <bsinger@geology.wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

Dear Chancellor Blank,

It has been brought to my attention that the University plans to remove Chamberlin Rock because it is a racist symbol. I find this news surprising and distressing, because in my 54 years in the Department of Geoscience (32 as a Professor and 22 as a Professor Emeritus), I never once heard Chamberlin Rock referred to as a "niggerhead". On the contrary, Chamberlin Rock is an excellent example of Precambrian banded gneiss that was transported some 200 miles from northern Wisconsin by glacial activity, and it has considerable instructional value.

In addition, Chamberlin Rock holds a special place in my heart, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chamberlin Rock is a valuable geological resource, and if the University decides to remove the boulder from its present location, I hope that it will be moved to another location on campus, where it can continue to be used to instruct geology students in certain aspects of Precambrian geology for years to come.

Sincerely,

Gordon Medaris, Jr.
Professor Emeritus
Department of Geoscience
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:11:04 PM

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your message.

In January 2021, I accepted the Campus Planning Committee's (CPC) recommendation regarding the relocation of what is currently known as Chamberlin Rock. The CPC made its decision by balancing the competing and compelling interests of all stakeholders involved. I am in agreement with their recommendation and we are proceeding with relocation. I understand and appreciate your continued disappointment with this outcome.

I am very grateful for your support of the university, and in particular, students studying in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison

On 5/24/21, 6:51 PM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Chancellor Rebecca Blank

It has been almost six months since you informed me of your decision to relocate Chamberlin Rock to the Ice Age scenic trail. This is not the outcome I personally preferred. However, you made a decision that all involved parties should respect. During the month of March, I spoke with Jodi Wickham at the UW Foundation and removed the name "Chamberlin Rock Scholarship Fund" from my endowment. I informed Jodi that for now, I am suspending scheduled future gifting additions to the fund. My reasons for this are two-fold. First, I was given no response as to why none of the other nine named boulders on U.W. campus are being relocated? Refer to E.B. Fred's book "A University Remembers" Secondly, I was given no response to my offer to meet with you or your representative at Chamberlin Rock at a time and day of your choice. Apparently, your mind was made up as to what your decision would be and no discussion was necessary. It is still difficult for me to see how relocating Chamberlin Rock will make any improvement regarding racial diversity at U.W.

Before you actually commit to moving Chamberlin Rock this July, I suggest you take time to read a fantastic new book written by Andrew Knoll entitled "A Brief History Of Earth". Knoll is a professor of natural history at Harvard University. In his book, he details our planet's epic 4.6 billion year story providing a look at where man has

been and where we are going. I hope that after reading this book you just might reconsider your decision regarding Chamberlin Rock.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [Matthew Mayrl](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Adam Kindschy](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:48:25 AM

I think we have this one finalized. Adam – can you give a status update?

--

Matthew Mayrl
Chief of Staff & Chief Strategy Officer
Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 9:46 AM
To: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>, Adam Kindschy <adam.kindschy@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock

Heads up--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 8:12 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

Chancellor Rebecca Blank

By now you should have received my 11/23/2020 letter along with a copy of my 08/24/2020 letter to Karen Wasserman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs CALS. I would much appreciate your response to my letter detailing my sponsorship of the Chamberlin Rock Scholarship Fund thru the UW Foundation and the student scholarships awarded each year to undergraduates. Thank you.

Regards:

[REDACTED]

From: [Adam Kindschy](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Matthew Mayrl](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:48:20 AM
Attachments: [12_08_20_Damm.pdf](#)

We snail mailed the attached response two days ago. I'm guessing [REDACTED] will receive the letter today or tomorrow.

Adam Kindschy
Office of the Chancellor
Cell: 608.213.7294
adam.kindschy@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 8:46 AM
To: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>, Adam Kindschy <adam.kindschy@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock

Heads up--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 8:12 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

Chancellor Rebecca Blank

By now you should have received my 11/23/2020 letter along with a copy of my 08/24/2020 letter to Karen Wasserman, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs CALS. I would much appreciate your response to my letter detailing my sponsorship of the Chamberlin Rock Scholarship Fund thru the UW Foundation and the student scholarships awarded each year to undergraduates. Thank you.

Regards:

[REDACTED]



December 8, 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing and sharing your personal connection to Chamberlin Rock. Thank you also for your philanthropic support of the university. I am grateful for your generosity and support of student scholarships.

The university's Campus Planning Committee, which advises the Chancellor and Provost concerning issues affecting the physical spaces of the university, voted unanimously to recommend removing Chamberlin Rock. Staff in our Facilities Planning & Management office will ultimately present me with different options for removal with a final recommendation on disposition from the committee.

I appreciate your offer to provide the financial resources needed to move the rock to your personal property. I will share your offer with the Campus Planning Committee, but at this point in the process I am unable to commit to a specific course of action. Once I receive the Campus Planning Committee's options and a recommendation for disposition, I will be better positioned to make a decision.

I also appreciate your clear sense of loss from this action. From what I have seen and heard, relatively few of our current students or alumni feel much of a personal connection to Chamberlin Rock – it's not on any of the major campus pathways. But for those of you who do have memories connected to this spot, I know these changes are difficult. I can tell you that the view across Lake Mendota from that spot on top of the hill will not change and I hope you and [REDACTED] And we will find another location to honor President Chamberlin.

Thank you again for writing and for your offer. I or someone from my office will be in touch when we are further into this process.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor

From: [Adam Kindschy](#)
To: [Matthew Mayrl](#); [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Rebecca Blank](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 9:15:28 PM

I will forward you the email exchange I've had with [REDACTED] over the past six months. We've been in touch with him throughout this process (as has CALS).

Adam Kindschy
Office of the Chancellor
Cell: 608.213.7294
adam.kindschy@wisc.edu

From: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 at 8:51 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>, Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>, Adam Kindschy <adam.kindschy@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock

+ Adam as well.

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 8:50:17 PM
To: Rebecca Blank <rblank@chancellor.wisc.edu>; Matthew Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: Chamberlin Rock

From the general account--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 6:51 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

Chancellor Rebecca Blank

It has been almost six months since you informed me of your decision to relocate Chamberlin Rock to the Ice Age scenic trail. This is not the outcome I personally preferred. However, you made a decision that all involved parties should respect. During the month of March, I spoke with Jodi Wickham at the UW Foundation and removed the name

"Chamberlin Rock Scholarship Fund" from my endowment. I informed Jodi that for now, I am suspending scheduled future gifting additions to the fund. My reasons for this are two-fold. First, I was given no response as to why none of the other nine named boulders on U.W. campus are being relocated? Refer to E.B. Fred's book "A University Remembers" Secondly, I was given no response to my offer to meet with you or your representative at Chamberlin Rock at a time and day of your choice. Apparently, your mind was made up as to what your decision would be and no discussion was necessary. It is still difficult for me to see how relocating Chamberlin Rock will make any improvement regarding racial diversity at U.W.

Before you actually commit to moving Chamberlin Rock this July, I suggest you take time to read a fantastic new book written by Andrew Knoll entitled " A Brief History Of Earth". Knoll is a professor of natural history at Harvard University. In his book, he details our planet's epic 4.6 billion year story providing a look at where man has been and where we are going. I hope that after reading this book you just might reconsider your decision regarding Chamberlin Rock.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.

From: [jon grand](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 11:56:39 AM

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your response. I understood that the matter was closed. However, my hope is that the lessons to be learned will be heeded. That was, of course, the point of including the remarks by Vice-Chancellor Richardson. I was at the UW turning the turbulent years of the Vietnam protests. The campus was not united on that issue. But a number of our professors, great teachers like George Mosse, encouraged us to THINK rather than respond...on both sides of the issue. Or as St. Augustine taught: "Audi Alteram Partem!!! As any parent knows, if a child is throwing a tantrum about an ice cream, it's easiest to give them the ice cream...but it's not always good for them (unless, of course, it's UW ice cream).

Finally, while I appreciate the link to Chancellor Blank's rationale in the New York Times. However, as I am not a subscriber, opening the link is blocked. Perhaps there is another way to send a copy of her remarks?

Jon Grand

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 10:56 AM
To: jon grand [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock

Mr. Grand—Thank you for your message. Chancellor Mnookin considers this matter closed and does not plan to revisit it.

Some additional detail related to Chancellor Blank's rationale was published in the New York Times:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/22/opinion/letters/university-wisconsin-race.html>

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

Please note: Messages sent to and from this email account are subject to Wisconsin's Public Records Law (Wis. Stat. secs. 19.21-19.39). They may be released upon request if not subject to an exemption under the law.

From: jon grand [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 1:18 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock

Dear Chancellor Mnookin,

In April, I wrote to the then Chancellor, Rebecca Blank, regarding the removal of the Chamberlin Rock. As promised in the auto-reply email, I have received no further information on the process that led to the decision from any of the departments involved. That is disappointing but, I suppose, not unexpected. As the new Chancellor at Wisconsin, I thought you might take want to read some of the opinions expressed in an interview given by Louise Richardson, the retiring Vice-Chancellor at Oxford University. She said " I say to every incoming student that this is a place where you can expect to hear things you don't like" She went on to say "there is a view amongst some students...not all students...that there is a right not to be offended...Education is all about being uncomfortable."

She went on to say that, growing up in Ireland, she viewed Oliver Cromwell as "the devil incarnate." But over time she also learned of the positive things he had done. "It never occurred to me that his statue should be ripped down because he did terrible things in Ireland. I'd love us to educate ourselves on our history to understand more."

Although it is unlikely that Ms. Richardson ever read the plaque on Bascom Hall, she would clearly understand the message it contains. As a graduate and the son of a graduate understanding those words and the controversy that lead up to them has always been an important part of what I believed not only about academic freedom, but of freedom in general. Removing the Chamberlin rock was a lost opportunity to teach; but it was also a denial of that difficult tradition of sifting and winnowing in search of the truth.

Jon Grand

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 10:12 AM

To: jon grand [REDACTED]

Subject: Automatic reply: Chamberlin Rock

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Chancellor Rebecca Blank appreciates hearing from members of the campus community, parents, alumni and friends.

This account receives public input and answers questions. Because we receive a high volume of messages, this auto-reply is to acknowledge receipt of your email.

- If you are asking a specific question about UW's COVID-19 response, you may receive a response from covidresponse@vc.wisc.edu. More information is at <http://covidresponse.wisc.edu>.
- If you are asking a specific question about a different topic, this account will respond or route it to the appropriate office for response.
- If you're sharing input or an opinion about UW-Madison or a current issue in the news, we will share it with Chancellor Blank and route it to the appropriate

campus office, but you may not receive a direct response. You may also leave a voicemail message for us at (608) 890-0466.

- If you need scheduling assistance from the Chancellor's Office staff, please call 608-262-9946.

For periodic updates about the university, follow [UW-Madison](#) and [Chancellor Blank](#) on Twitter.

On, Wisconsin!

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:30:47 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock

The future of America is dire when institutions are forced to capitulate to spoiled and pampered children who have yet to contribute productively to society.

You know the people who fight not real threats but symbolic ones such as rocks, words and dead people. If a person can not function because a rock hurt their feelings then they are the weakest stock of people American has ever produced.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock:
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 2:58:08 PM
Attachments: [ChamberlinRockDisposition.pdf](#)

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email response.

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) will be meeting tomorrow (Thursday) to discuss disposition of Chamberlin Rock. In preparation for the meeting, the CPC has drafted the attached document. In our ongoing effort to keep you updated on this process, we are sharing this document with you.

Thank you for your continued interest in this process and for your very generous support of the university.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:35 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock:

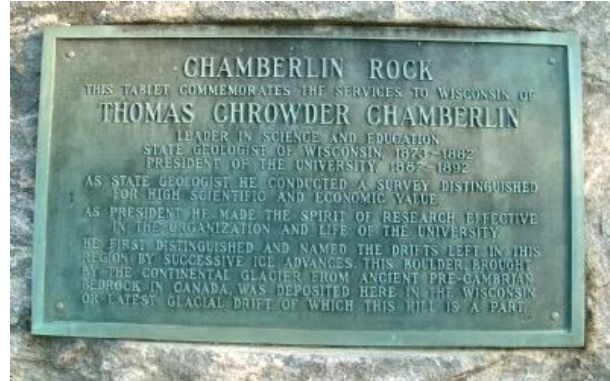
Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

Thank you for your 12/08/2020 response to my letter expressing my concern regarding Chamberlin Rock. I have been following the Wisconsin State Journal editorial page on this matter, and have found that I am not alone in my concern. I will by US Postal Mail send you photocopies of recent letters to the editor, both pro and con. Perhaps these letters by concerned citizens will be of help to you as you go forward in your decision-making process. Thank you again for your willingness to consider all aspects of this matter.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Chamberlin Rock Options for Disposition

Facilities Planning and Management
Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture
December 15, 2020



Issue Statement

On June 5, 2020 the president of the Wisconsin Black Student Union (WBSU) sent an e-mail to Chancellor Blank and other UW-Madison administrators on behalf of their student organization. The e-mail made four requests, including removal of Chamberlin Rock on Observatory Drive. In response to the WBSU demands, the chancellor indicated that she is willing to discuss the possibility of removing Chamberlin Rock. As the university's shared governance committee that advises the chancellor on commemorative objects, the matter was referred to the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) for their recommendation. On November 12, 2020 the CPC unanimously supported removal of Chamberlin Rock from its current site, with the disposition of the rock to return for further discussion.

General Considerations

Chamberlin Rock has become a symbol associated with aspects of the university and our history that have adversely, differentially affected the experiences of students, staff and faculty from historically underrepresented groups. Most vividly is a reference to the rock in a 1925 Wisconsin State Journal article. Other examples and issues have been and will continue to be raised by UW-Madison's [Public History Project](#). The university understands the students' proposal to remove or destroy the rock is a dramatic symbolic acknowledgement of racial injustices on campus.

Chamberlin Rock is unique in that it dates to the Pre-Cambrian era and is likely more than two billion years old. It is highly unusual to find a glacial erratic boulder of this size and type in the glacial deposits of Wisconsin which are often smaller in size and character. The rock commemorates UW President Thomas Chamberlin, whose research in glaciation created the global geological science community in the latter part of the 19th century based on his work in Wisconsin. Chamberlin Rock is an iconic representation of the "Wisconsin Glaciation" period that is now well-known throughout the world and is visited by students, faculty and researchers from around the globe as well as those on campus.

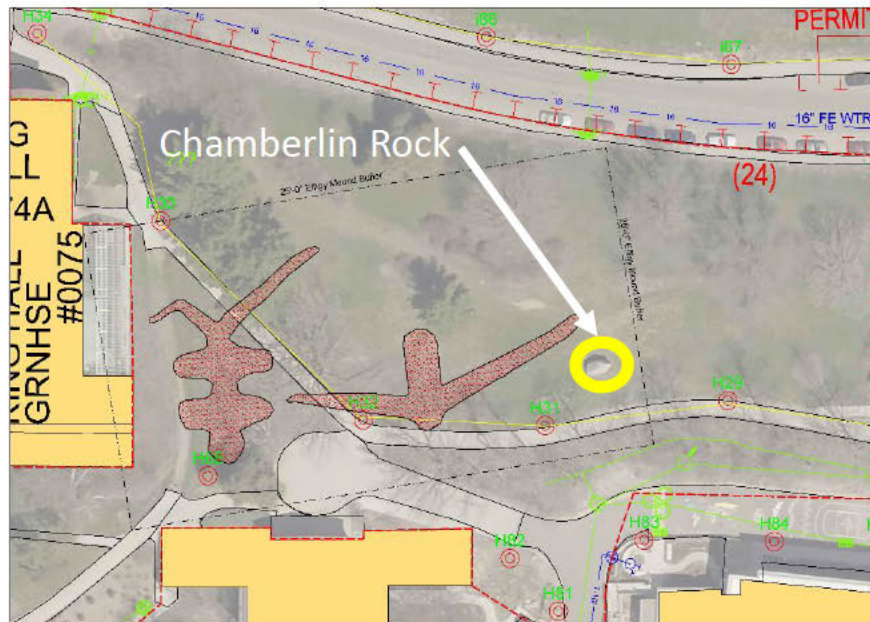
The Chamberlin Rock has been and is used for academic and research purposes as one of, if not the, largest glacial erratic that is fully intact and carries its preserved complex structure not found in other large rocks. There are others like it, but are much smaller (1-2 meters, max) often found along the Ice Age Trail and in our glaciated landscapes of southcentral Wisconsin. They do not have the same structure or complexity shown in the Chamberlin Rock. Removing the rock to an off-campus location would continue to make it accessible for a smaller, dedicated number of faculty and students on campus, but also remove it from a highly visible and often visited public site at the university.

Catalogued Burial Site Review Required

The Chamberlin Rock is currently located within the boundaries of a catalogued human burial site and is within 15 feet of an above-ground effigy mound feature. Per Wis. Stat. 157.70, any soil disturbance within a catalogued

human burial site requires a permit from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Following the submission of a permit request, there is a minimum 30-day period during which registered interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed activity. Under ideal conditions the permit process can be completed in approximately 40 days, longer if the project is challenged by any of the interested parties. A qualified archaeologist will need to monitor the removal and site restoration process.

Soil disturbance within the catalogued burial site is a consideration for permit approval from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Vertically lifting the rock from its current position would likely present the least disturbance to the human burial site. Burying the rock in a spot adjacent to the current location will result in the greatest potential disturbance to the burial site and the adjacent soils. Breaking up the rock into smaller pieces for disposal may be possible with minimal soil and site disturbance, however the rock is then unavailable to support academic and scientific needs.



Mapped Archaeological Site on Observatory Hill showing mapped boundary around extant effigy mounds.

New Chamberlin Plaque

When the rock is removed from campus, the current plaque will be removed from the face of the rock and stored in UW Archives. A replacement plaque would be produced to honor President Chamberlin, without reference to the “Chamberlin Rock” as it exists today. The Department of Geoscience has indicated they would accept the new honorary plaque for display at Weeks Hall.

Options for Disposition

Three options have been identified for the disposition of the Chamberlin Rock once removed from its existing location. Note that a competitive bidding process will be required to determine the actual removal/disposition cost for each of the following options:

Option #1 – Break up the Rock and Dispose

Option #2 – Remove and Relocate

- 2A – Ice Age Trail (Dane Co. Parks or National Park Service land near Cross Plains or University Ridge)
- 2B – Private Residence (near Bristol, WI)

Option #3 – Bury the Rock

Disposition Options Detail

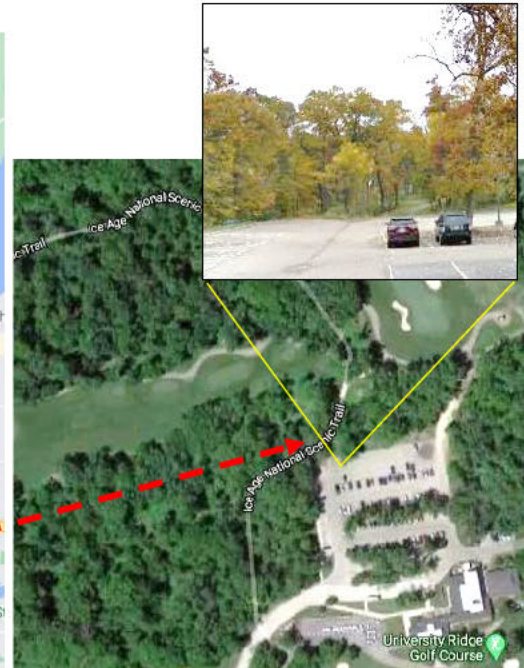
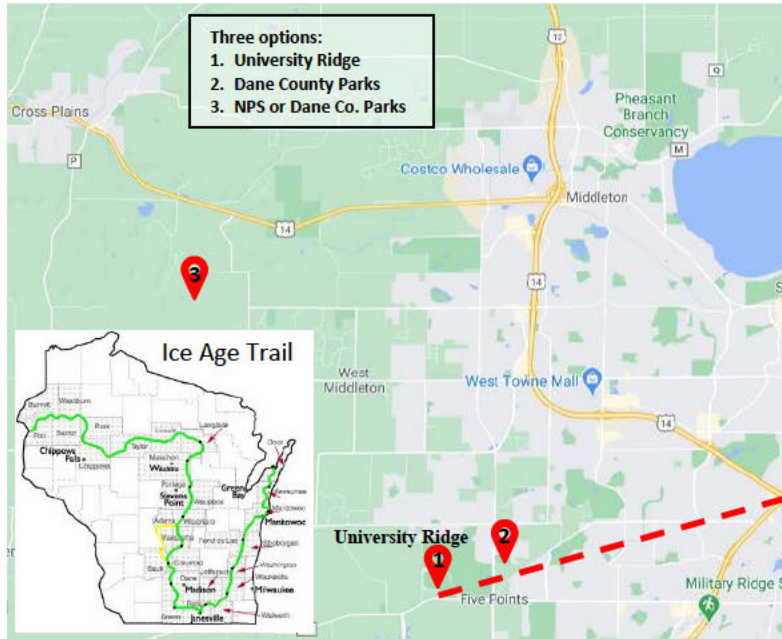
Option #1	Breakup the Rock and Dispose	
Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students paint concerns, thoughts, emotions on the rock • Ceremonial breaking up of the rock • Dispose of or bury remnants on site • Backfill and restore site 	
	<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation from WBSU • Provides closure for the students 	<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential damage to the archaeological site • Disregards academic/research purpose & historical significance of the rock on campus • Generally not supported by the Ho-Chunk due to potential impact to the burial site

Option # 2	Remove and Relocate	
Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strip topsoil/stockpile • Construct temporary gravel road for crane pad • Lift rock w/crane & place on flatbed • Transport off campus, unload and install • Backfill and restore site on Observatory Hill • Add interpretative signage at the relocation site to explain its scientific importance • Support ongoing discussion for effigy mound interpretative signage on Observatory Hill • Include signage/artwork on campus to support the cultural significance of the rock's removal 	<p>Relocation Site Options (see p. 4 for details)</p> <p>A. Ice Age Trail (Univ. Ridge; Dane Co, Parks; or federal land; 25-minute drive from campus)</p> <p>B. Private Property (near Bristol, WI) 40-minute drive from campus</p>
	<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes the rock from main campus in support of WBSU request • Maintains availability for academic and research purposes • Generally supported by the Ho-Chunk tribal historic preservation officer 	<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students would like the rock broken up & disposed • Story of the rock continues, to some extent, in the new location but less visible and less of a negative impact to students/visitors on campus • Univ Ridge site will require Athletics approval • Private Residence has issues with long-term access for teaching; what happens when the land is sold?

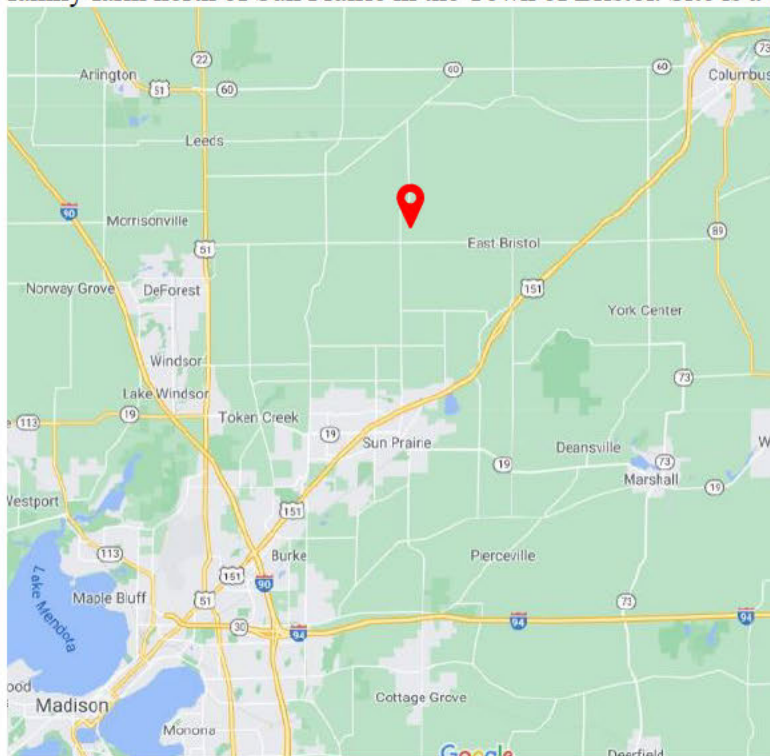
Option #3	Bury the rock	
Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suitable site on Observatory Hill, approx. 30 feet east of current location • Strip topsoil, excavate hole; drag/push rock into the hole, fully bury • Backfill and restore the site 	
	<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains the rock and puts it back “where we found it”, completely buried • Generally supported by Ho-Chunk the Ho-Chunk tribal historic preservation officer 	<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ability to be used for academic & research activities • Potential significant impact to the archaeological site and surrounding soils

Relocation Site Options

A. A relocation site on or near the National Park Service's **Ice Age Trail** on Dane County Parks land, on other NPS land, or at University Ridge would keep the erratic on context with the movement of rocks via glaciation. It is a National Scenic Trail that winds entirely through Wisconsin tracing the boundary of unique glacial landscapes. Initial discussions have begun with staff in the National Park Service to site the rock on or near the NPS Ice Age Trail near Cross Plains. The site could also be at University Ridge where the trail runs through UW property, would not be on the golf course but near wooded lands, off the Ice Age Trail and near visitor parking for faculty/students to use for study, (see below right). If non-UW lands are preferred, a discussion could be also be started with Dane County Parks where the Ice Age Trail also runs through several of their park lands nearby. Site(s) are a 25-minute drive from campus.



B. **Private Residence, Town of Bristol, WI** – UW-Madison alumni have offered to relocate the rock to their family farm north of Sun Prairie in the Town of Bristol. Site is a 40-minute drive from campus.



Recommendation

Our recommendation tries to balance competing, compelling interests. We recommend that the rock be relocated off campus. A final specific site for the rock has not been determined, however, several options in collaboration with the Ice Age National Scenic Trail prove viable. Having the rock nearby on or near the Trail provides access for faculty, students and visitors to view the rock in the context of a glacial till landscape along with other glacial deposits.

This relocation recommendation recognizes the students' concerns that the rock is unacceptable as a commemorative object and that it needs to be removed from the main campus. At the same time, this option preserves the rock for its scientific and educational values to those willing to travel to an off-campus site to study its unique geologic character in an appropriate setting. The existing plaque honoring Chamberlin should be removed and placed in the UW Archives and a new plaque created to honor UW President Chamberlin for installation at Weeks Hall.

Draft Process & Schedule Forward

Nov. 12, 2020 CPC removal recommendation to the Chancellor
Dec. 17, 2020 CPC disposition recommendation to the Chancellor
Late Dec. 2020 Chancellor reviews recommendations from the CPC and makes final decision on disposition
Jan.-Feb. 2021 FP&M submits request to disturb burial site from Wisconsin Historical Society (30-60 days)
Jan.-Mar.2021 FP&M prepares bid documents for removal & disposition; posts for bids & writes contracts
July 2021 FP&M coordinates removal process & site is restored after site soils are stable & dry

From: [Matthew Mayrl](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Adam Kindschy](#); [Eden Inoway-Ronnie](#); [John Karl Scholz](#)
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock:
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:32:48 PM

Adam, the chancellor would like to share the CPC report with [REDACTED] as well.

Eden, can you share with us the final?

Adam, once we have the report, can you please draft a brief note to be sent from Office of the Chancellor acct to accompany the report. Just something that references his continued interest in the issue and our desire to keep him apprised of the status of deliberations. This report should come our way some time on Monday.

Thanks!

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Matthew Mayrl; Adam Kindschy
Subject: FW: Chamberlin Rock:

FYI--

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:35 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock:

Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

Thank you for your 12/08/2020 response to my letter expressing my concern regarding Chamberlin Rock. I have been following the Wisconsin State Journal editorial page on this matter, and have found that I am not alone in my concern. I will by US Postal Mail send you photocopies of recent letters to the editor, both pro and con. Perhaps these letters by concerned citizens will be of help to you as you go forward in your decision-making process. Thank you again for your willingness to consider all aspects of this matter.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock:
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:32:17 AM
Attachments: [01_04_21_Chamberlin_Rock.pdf](#)

[REDACTED]

As you might have seen, I have approved the Campus Planning Committee's rock disposition plan (see attached letter). The rock will be relocated to a location on the Ice Age Trail, which will allow for continued educational and public access to the rock (the exact location on the trail is still TBD).

I know this is not the outcome you wanted; thank you for initially reaching out and sharing your unique story and connection to the rock. I very much appreciate your commitment to the university.

Best wishes to you and your family in the new year.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4:42 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Chamberlin Rock:

Rebecca Blank

Thank you for including me in the procedures involving the future of Chamberlin Rock. I look forward to updates as decisions are formalized over the next few months.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 2:58 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email response.

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) will be meeting tomorrow (Thursday) to discuss disposition of Chamberlin Rock. In preparation for the meeting, the CPC has drafted the attached document. In our ongoing effort to keep you updated on this process, we are sharing this document with you.

Thank you for your continued interest in this process and for your very generous support of the university.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin–Madison

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:35 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Chamberlin Rock:

Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

Thank you for your 12/08/2020 response to my letter expressing my concern regarding Chamberlin Rock. I have been following the Wisconsin State Journal editorial page on this matter, and have found that I am not alone in my concern. I will by US Postal Mail send you photocopies of recent letters to the editor, both pro and con. Perhaps these letters by concerned citizens will be of help to you as you go forward in your decision-making process. Thank you again for your willingness to consider all aspects of this matter.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



January 4, 2021

Gary A. Brown, PLA, FASLA
Director, FP&M Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Dear Gary,

I accept the recommendation of the Campus Planning Committee (CPC), passed on December 17, 2020, regarding the relocation of what is currently known as Chamberlin Rock. FP&M should proceed with relocation as the CPC recommendation states:

Moved by Eric Wilcots and seconded by Ian Robertson, the Campus Planning Committee recommends that balancing the competing, compelling interests of all stakeholders involved, the Chamberlin Rock be relocated off university property to a location on or near the National Park Service's Ice Age Scenic Trail in the context of a glacial till landscape.

I would also like FP&M to work with the CPC to create a new plaque that will honor President Chamberlin's legacy and to propose an appropriate location for that plaque.

Please keep my office updated on your progress on both of these projects.

Thanks to you and the entire CPC for their thoughtful discussions and decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Frank Sudore](#)
Subject: Re: Community of Visionaries?
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:26:48 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 4:48 AM, "Frank Sudore" [REDACTED] > wrote:

That is your motto and the statue of one of the most IMPORTANT FIGURES IN HISTORY IS COMING DOWN? What's next? Books burned?

As a public University I hope your funding gets yanked.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Congrats from an alum and stay strong to defend freedom and democracy
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:28:00 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 10:14 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Congrats from an alum and stay strong to defend freedom and democracy

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As an alum of UW-Madison I totally support you in defending the statue of Lincoln, symbol of justice and of the high price of freedom the US stands for. As an English Major (1981) and a social worker, I am both appalled and frightened for our collective society, and for my university in particular. We are made of better stuff than this. We each are responsible for one another in mutual respect and generosity of spirit. UW-Madison has given to students so generously the riches of human achievements. Let that not be trampled upon by spurious emotional irrationality masquerading as that ill defined "social justice". I implore you to stand for plain old justice and not give in to the mob.

Thanks for listening.

Zena Goldenberg

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Current state of Affairs at our Colleges
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:02:07 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:25 PM
To: "chancellor@uwec.edu" <chancellor@uwec.edu>, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>, "alexandm@uwgb.edu" <alexandm@uwgb.edu>, "mone@uwm.edu" <mone@uwm.edu>, "jgow@uwlax.edu" <jgow@uwlax.edu>, "leavitt@uwosh.edu" <leavitt@uwosh.edu>, "ford@uwp.edu" <ford@uwp.edu>, "bpatters@uwsp.edu"

<bpatters@uwsp.edu>, "chancellorofc@uww.edu" <chancellorofc@uww.edu>, "shieldsd@uwplatt.edu" <shieldsd@uwplatt.edu>, "chancellor@uwstout.edu" <chancellor@uwstout.edu>, "chancellor@uwrf.edu" <chancellor@uwrf.edu>, "rwachter@uwsuper.edu" <rwachter@uwsuper.edu>, "sen.jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov>, "rep.tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov>


Subject: Current state of Affairs at our Colleges

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chancellor@uwec.edu, chancellor@news.wisc.edu, alexandm@uwgb.edu, mone@uwm.edu, jgow@uwlax.edu, leavitt@uwosh.edu, ford@uwp.edu, bpatters@uwsp.edu, chancellorofc@uww.edu, shieldsd@uwplatt.edu, chancellor@uwstout.edu, chancellor@uwrf.edu, rwachter@uwsuper.edu, sen.jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov, rep.tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov

Hello,

In the last week, I am seeing a great number of college aged children - I cannot call them young adults because they are not acting like adults - rioting and destroying statues at colleges and government. This tells me that there is a great failure of our education system of which you are the headmasters.

 what I am seeing, from this outside perspective, is an imbalance in the education of young people. They are taught from young on and it is approved of in college that having a tantrum to get your way is the way to change society. What this does, actually, is turn society against your cause, any cause you are involved in, because you have cut off all dialogue. When I see the destruction of our beautiful FORWARD statue and others and the demand that Lincoln be removed and the disgusting graffiti, my reaction is - cut off the tax dollar to universities that are propagating an imbalance in our society. Where is the discussion between opposing views? Those against this destruction sit back in horror, but I for one have been calling friends and urging them to do as I am - contacting those in charge and asking - WHAT ARE YOU DOING? Why are these college age children so violent? What are they learning in your college towns - where we are seeing most of this violence - that are prompting them to illegal acts? Haven't they been taught Civics, Rule of Law, debate, discussion? I do hope you figure it out because I would better take my tax dollars and throw them in a fire pit than spend one more cent in the current system.

Sincerely,

Chris McMahon

PS: I also hear that any conservative professor who speaks out is silenced -- again, this is against all common sense and healthy debate and without healthy debate, society FAILS.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Do not let the mob tear down President Lincoln's statue in front of Bascom Hall
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:20:54 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 8:33 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Do not let the mob tear down President Lincoln's statue in front of Bascom Hall

Dear Chancellor,

I am an alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Madison graduating in 1974. My father also graduated from UW-Madison after WWII and convinced me to study there as well.

In recent news reports, I read that you are being pressured to take down the statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of Bascom Hall. These news reports suggest you have so far resisted these calls. THANK YOU!!!

Do not give into people who probably could not answer a freshman history exam on the Civil War correctly, much less about the life of Abraham Lincoln. No one who has played an important role in American history has a spotless biography. We learn from our past leaders who did great things in their lives along with things they may not be proud of, or learned from and changed. We hope the young people who are making these demands realize they are no different and will surely have words or actions in their lives that they will not be proud of or may need to learn from. That is the lesson they need to learn, not threatening to tear down statues that they do not own or even understand.

If you do not say no, who will? This is your moment. The adults in America need a spine and may you be one of those who will be remembered as one who said, "Enough!"

Thank you!!

Sincerely,
Carlie Sorensen Dixon
BA History and German 1974

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Don't throw away my heritage to recognize another: blend them.
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:43:21 AM

Thank you for your message. Chancellor Blank has no plans to remove the Lincoln Statue, although she is considering removal of Chamberlin Rock.

Her view of the situation is below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 12:28 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Don't throw away my heritage to recognize another: blend them.

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

I am a 1963 L&S grad [REDACTED]

I have always been concerned at the lack of minority representation and a general "attitude" shown by some.

[REDACTED]

We have failed in this arena continuously. Over-reacting will not heal. Do not remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln, who free the slaves, lead the Civil War and provided free land to land grant colleges like UW and U of IL and IN to provide training for farmers to expand the mid-west. Some considered this anti-indigenous as it was their land that was developed for white European immigrants. Non-the-less, it is the history of how we successfully expanded and developed these lands. It was part of the formula allowing us to exist as we do today on the one hand, and outright thievery on the other.

Leave Lincoln alone. Leave the Chamberlain Rock alone. I was totally unaware both of its existence and racial nickname. Perhaps paint it red-white-and blue in one direction and multi-racial colors in the other: dark red, brown, black, light yellow and light caucasian flesh stripe in the other. Perhaps some research would show some early non-caucasian heroes that could have their statues erected to, maybe on or near the rock.

To totally denigrate the history we have come to respect only widens the divide, we need to blend the old with the new in the honor of revisionist history first started at UW.

Thank you,
DONALD GELDERNICK

[REDACTED]
My profile is on [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Christopher Kox](#)
Subject: Re: Frederick March defenders
Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 1:34:54 PM

Thank you for your recent message in support of actor and UW-Madison alumnus Fredric March.

We fully acknowledge the prolific acting career and civil rights record of Mr. March, but also note the present-day effect of his and others' participation in a student organization that took the name of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

The Wisconsin Union at UW-Madison has been governed by a student-majority governing board since 1928 – including during the time when Mr. March's name was added to our Play Circle Theater within Memorial Union in 1978 and again when students determined his contributions should be recognized in another manner.

Chancellor Rebecca Blank recently outlined her support for the name change of the Play Circle Theater within our Memorial Union. The full piece can be accessed here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/22/opinion/letters/university-wisconsin-race.html>

Chancellor Blank continues to concur with the Union Council decision and there are no plans for the institution to revisit the issue.

Mr. March is included in a historic storytelling display on the same floor as the Play Circle. This will be the ongoing recognition of his role in our university's history.

Office of the Chancellor

From: Christopher Kox <ckox@ccsf.edu>
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 3:41 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Frederick March defenders

Honorable Chancellor Blank,

I briefly attended L&S and the Graduate Library School in the 70s and 80s -- without degrees -- but earning a life-long membership in the Memorial Union. My father, siblings and numerous relatives hold degrees from Madison.

We are naturally proud of the institution and its relationship to the people of the state, the country and the world. Still, some of us feel that standards of scholarship are occasionally compromised by a rush to judgment under the pressures of the day, and a vociferous student body.

Please consider the testimonial letter sent to the University from Civil Rights leaders and activists on September 15, 2021. Please open an inquiry into Frederick March's activities vis a vis the Civil Rights movement from the 1920s to the 1970s.

If an honest inquiry should find the truth of Frederick March has not been misrepresented, then so be it, his name has already been removed from public edifices. However, if an honest inquiry supports testimony in the letter, we hope that the March legacy will be fully and publicly restored in the name of honesty and integrity.

Thank you, and On Wisconsin!

Christopher Kox, PhD
Emeritus Faculty and Administration
City College of San Francisco

From: [Jill Tricarico](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Is the vote to remove Lincoln similar to the BDS movement vote
Date: Sunday, November 1, 2020 4:17:57 PM

I must say that his legacy is not that complicated and even saying that is giving an inch to the mob. The mob never rests until they take everyone down with them. Please stand against this nonsense. Lincoln should be remembered for the courageous and compassionate President he was and we don't need to re-examine his life to try to find flaws. Every human is flawed in private but that has nothing to do with what he accomplished in public life. Do not give in to the mob. They will eventually come for you too.

Jill Tricarico
Managing Director
Compass Point Research and Trading LLC
jtricarico@compasspointllc.com
[646-448-3039](tel:646-448-3039)
[144 East 44th Street](#)
[New York, New York 10017](#)

On Nov 1, 2020, at 4:59 PM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Jill Tricarico <JTricarico@compasspointllc.com>
Date: Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 3:44 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Is the vote to remove Lincoln similar to the BDS movement vote

I hope that is just nonsense which is not taken seriously. Isn't the administration in Madison wondering what these students are learning or not learning, that they would vote on something so unbelievably moronic. It is quite worrisome.

Jill Tricarico
Managing Director
Compass Point Research and Trading LLC
jtricarico@compasspointllc.com
[646-448-3039](tel:646-448-3039)
[144 East 44th Street](#)
[New York, New York 10017](#)

Compass Point Research & Trading, LLC is sending this email strictly for informational purposes. The information contained in this transmission is privileged and confidential. It is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. The information contained herein is based on sources we believe reliable but is not considered all-inclusive. Unless otherwise noted, the opinions expressed herein are our current opinions and are subject to change without notice. Offerings are subject to prior sale and/or change in price. Prices, quotes, rates and yields are subject to change without notice. We respectfully request that you do not transmit orders and/or instructions regarding your Compass Point Research & Trading, LLC account by e-mail. Transactional details do not supersede normal trade confirmations

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Just a hope and a prayer...
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:51:31 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:07 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Just a hope and a prayer...

That the university's president and board do not cave into the demands of some students to remove the Lincoln statue from any campus. Since when does a university pander to student demands such as this? I hope they won't.

IF they are considering it, they need to check out who's behind this group. If students want take down the statue, then take down the Democratic Party on campus... do the research on who started KKK; who wanted slavery? Don't o erasing history because of a few malcontents. Hopefully this message doesn't stop with "Bucky" ... it should go to the board and the president.

Sincerely,

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Just my thoughts ...
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:16:07 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 10:37 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Just my thoughts ...

Dear Chancellor Blank

I am just another UW proud graduate.

We do not agree on our political party, but that does not matter!

I am so proud of you protecting a piece of the campus, the Abe Lincoln statue! Please, please, please DO NOT allow that to be removed!

I'm sure we agree that it is a piece of American history and he did eliminate slavery!

Please, Rebecca DO NOT ALLOW it to be removed!

Mark and Jane Melby

Class of 1983 UW Madison

PROUD TO BE BADGERS!

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Ask Bucky](#)
Subject: Re: KEEP Abe Lincoln
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:00:15 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 1:10 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Fw: KEEP Abe Lincoln

Hello,

Would you be able to respond to this email, or would you like us to respond and use the same information you sent to a different person who had the same concern?

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:48 PM

To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>

Subject: KEEP Abe Lincoln

Immediate family: Undergraduate / Masters / Doctoral --- and CEOs

Future Generations?

Keep Abe Lincoln!

Lou

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Joanne Steiner](#)
Subject: Re: KEEP THE ABRAHAM LINCON STATUE WHERE IT IS
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:01:19 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.


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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 3:21 PM, "Joanne Steiner" < wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please do not remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln. He is an important part of our history. Your University should be teaching these students to uphold our history not tear it down. Please remember you are an institution for higher learning. Taking down this statue would not be evidence of that.

Thank you,
Joanne Steiner

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Stephanie Benson-Gonzales](#)
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 11:33:13 AM

Thank you!!

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Stephanie Benson-Gonzales <stephanie.bensongonzales@wisc.edu>
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 at 11:29 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

Yes - I will take this one. I'll check-in with Christina and Joanna too.

Stephanie Benson-Gonzales

[Parent and Family Program](#)

[University of Wisconsin–Madison](#)

stephanie.bensongonzales@wisc.edu | 608-262-7936

She/her/hers

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Stephanie Benson-Gonzales <stephanie.bensongonzales@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED]

Hi Stephanie—Not to add one more thing on your plate, but see this one—would this be one you all would be able to call? Or let me know if you think it needs to be escalated to Christina?

Key points for us is that we have been clear in not defunding UWPD or removing Abe and that we have a diversity of political belief, including active organizations across the spectrum and then mental health resources?

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison

chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 8:25 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Ms. Blank

Attached is a voicemail my daughter [REDACTED] left me. She is a 2018 graduate of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and attends UW-Madison (I have two other daughters who graduated from UW Madison). She has always been active in politics. [REDACTED]. She is against defunding the UW Police Department and removing the President Lincoln statue. She supported President Trump in the most recent election.

My wife and I have become increasingly concerned about the intolerance of conservative views on the UW campus. The gush of fury and vitriol my daughter received in text messages when she voted against defunding the UW Police was stunning. My daughter sent me screenshots of the texts because I couldn't believe what she was telling me. People can disagree; however they need to respectfully disagree. Unfortunately "respect" is no longer required on campus.

The UW campus should be a place where students are encouraged and feel safe to state their views. It should also be a place where intolerance is not allowed.

Please listen to the attached voicemail to understand the campus environment the UW Administration and Faculty are cultivating. In light of her recent experiences, I am honestly concerned about my daughter's [REDACTED]. How is the UW going to address the intolerance that has permeated the campus and protect my daughter? I look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Keep Abe Lincoln
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:40:13 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 8:46 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Keep Abe Lincoln

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing in regards to recent news of people wanting to remove the Abe Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill. I believe removal is wrong and is an attempt to erase/rewrite history. The people who are attempting this are the radical fringe and quite frankly are a bunch of do-nothing loser crybullies.

If statues are removed from the UW campus, I will have no future interest in financial support of my Alma Mater. The disgusting acts against business owners and property downtown have already caused me to stop visiting the area.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Keep Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:24:40 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 7:15 AM, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I know you won't give this email much thought coming from someone who isn't enrolled in your university, but as a junior in high school hoping to attend your school this matter will affect me: The Abraham Lincoln statue is one of the things that makes UW-Madison such an iconic school. You think of Camp Randall, Jump Around, and rubbing the foot of Abe Lincoln. This statue also represents the man who freed the slaves. I'm not brushing off the bad he did, but for a president to be brave enough to go to war against his own country to help a group of people is something we MUST continue to honor.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Keep Abraham Lincoln
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:59:08 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/26/20, 2:49 PM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Hello Chancellor,

Please do not allow the history on the Madison campus to be removed. Tearing down Abraham Lincoln is destruction. How is tearing down building unity? It doesn't. There needs to be tolerance. Free right of speech is being destroyed. Please don't contribute to this.

I am a writing as a concerned Wisconsin resident who is interested in preserving UW-Madison as a place for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Lampone

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: Re: Keep the Rock!
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 8:45:26 AM

I really do appreciate the reply. Your options like burying the rock, smashing the rock, moving to an Ice Age Trail in the county leave me even more perplexed as the 'move to remove' puts officials looking to find ways to keep the controversy from getting out of hand.

I get it. I don't like the term in the newspaper and in London's story either. But I can frame it historically. (I will be accused of white privilege no doubt, and thus the issue of racism gains momentum. Whatever). These days there is a movement to get rid of monuments, in this case even a rock. You are seeking to assuage the demand to do this. The trend in 2020 forces this confrontation. And as I said before, where will it all end. I understand it is probably easier to bring in the ball and chain than to face the concerned crowd or try to appeal to reason. Everyone else in the silent majority will shake their heads and walk away. Congratulations. However...

Options

How about leaving the rock. Its very creation gives it some "rights" doesn't it? Its beauty is still a reality. In some sense, it is a geologic work of art. I cannot read the plaque, so don't know what it says. Maybe update the plaque? Speak to both its beauty and geologic origin and also its 2020 question of appropriateness.

Another option in tri-fold brochures in a container near the walking path, (like in a waterproof container that realty companies place near real estate for sale) explain its significance. In those brochures, give the geologic explanation of the wonder of such a rock, how it came to be, the thousands of years of earth evolution that brought its birth. Could someone in the geology department work on this since it is their area of expertise? Maybe this brochure could proclaim how lucky the campus is to have a reminder of its geologic past where more of these geologic wonders once dotted the landscape. I don't think in any way you should APOLOGIZE FOR THIS ROCK.

Then, WITHIN THE SAME BROCHURE, to mediate, acknowledge the racial slur. Explain it. But show both discussions. A fair minded tri-fold that covers and allows folks who read it to make up THEIR OWN MINDS ON THE ROCK.

Another discussion How about you suggest to your professorial staff that they include its discussion in the syllabus of studies aimed at diversity. Also, suggest to those in charge of law classes, that the rock becomes a point of discussion, how is it constitutionally correct to destroy or replace monuments that some abhor and some love. How is history honored and relevant to current issues at the same time? That is after all at the very core of this whole issue.

Also, challenge the leaders of the the rock destruction group, to allow the rock to stand and to write a manifesto/statement of protest and place it in a prominent place in the library where anyone can read it if they choose. Or in the geology hall. Anywhere, just don't destroy a rock that really represents far more of your state in its very existence than what someone dug up in 1925 newspaper.

Just trying to help. Trying to look ahead. L. Gruhn

On Thu, Nov 19, 2020 at 2:09 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative

of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision.

Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars.

The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following

removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:00 PM

To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>

Subject: Keep the Rock!

I request that you pass this email on to the decision makers in the removal of The Rock (from a post that I saw on social media today. I trust it is accurate.) If it is, I hope you will reverse your decision to remove the rock.

It was stated that the problem with the slur "ni****-head" came from its use of the term in a 1925 newspaper. In similar fashion, Jack London, world famous author, used the phrase when writing about terrain in the Yukon. From his short story *To Build a Fire* "**He held on through the level stretch of woods for several miles, crossed a wide flat of ni****-heads, and dropped down a bank to the frozen bed of a small stream. This was Henderson Creek,**"...

I taught this story to Jr. High students for years and, yes, we discussed the era (early 1900 s) that 'allowed' such reference to the round rocks. But discussion of any work by a major writer also includes theme, content, style, and so forth. All elements are studied, along with the context of the time they were written.

I think comparisons can be made to the removal of this rock. If we remove a rock because of a 1925 publication, will we also remove Jack London s short story "To Build a Fire" from print because he used the phrase and published it in a story in 1902? The obvious question is, "where will it all end?"

Laurel Gruhn, retired English Teacher from [REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: LINCOLN
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 8:49:53 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 8:48 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: LINCOLN

Removing the statue of Lincoln is the last straw. I will no longer support this university or uw athletics. Disgusting

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 10:20:19 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government action is not binding.

Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 9:42 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank, It has come to my attention that again students at the University of Wisconsin are trying to remove the Lincoln Statue on Bascom hill. This is part of the cancel culture that is spreading across our country. The Lincoln Statue is part of the University of Wisconsin period. Stand up for all the students AND all the alumni that think this is a very bad idea. There are thousands of alumni that feel this is a very bad idea and precedent to be entertained. What's next get rid of BUCKY? Lincoln does not stand for white supremacy!!!!!! far from it. That is just one opinion of a few students. Before Lincoln is removed by anybody a vote should be taken by all University of Wisconsin Alumni and students. Not just the students who presently run the student council. All the alumni I talked with are totally against this move. This university belongs to all those who have attended this great university, not just the current students. Please think hard and long before the Lincoln statue is removed. Dr Ronald Lange class of 74

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue Bascom Hill
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 6:15:34 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 4:40 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue Bascom Hill

Dear Chancellor Blank,

This is to commend you for speaking out in FAVOR of keeping the statue of Abraham Lincoln on Bascom Hill. Please continue to support this opinion!

Thank you,

Carole Cronin, R.Ph.

UW grad 1973 Pharmacy



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue Removal
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:57:14 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:38 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: Lincoln Statue Removal

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue Removal

To whom may concern,

We cannot keep buckling and caving into these movements every time someone wants a statue removed because it "offends them". Too bad it's our history and should never be erased. Should you do this, you are just as spineless as the rest who cave into this crap. Let them go to a different school if they don't like it. As an American citizen I am extremely displeased by all of this removal of our history. No one in any other country gets away with this.

If these people hate America so much, then leave and don't come back.

Greg Anderson

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:01:32 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 1:06 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill

If the University of Wisconsin removes or allows the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill I will cease immediately all donations to the university and its student organizations. I will also cancel my season tickets to the UW football and men's basketball teams. And finally, I will engage in a very public and messy campaign to encourage my fellow alumni to do the same.



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:17:58 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Cc: "michael.knetter@wfaa.com" <michael.knetter@wfaa.com>

Subject: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill

Dear Chancellor Blank,

We completely support your stance to keep the statue of Lincoln on Bascom Hill. The demand from [REDACTED] to remove the statue is unwarranted. WE would feel marginalized if the statue was removed!

We would find it impossible to continue our support for the UW Alumni Association should the statue of Lincoln be removed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Carrie Moore](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 8:50:11 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 10/31/20, 8:16 PM, "Carrie Moore" [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Chancellor Blank:

I am an alumna of the UW (1982). The Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill is my most vivid memory of the time I spent at the UW. Lincoln represents the very best of American character.

If the UW administration caves to a vocal, ill-educated group of activists and removes this statue, you will have proved that the leadership of the UW is not only weak but has given up on sense and reason. The UW will have lost its credibility as far as I'm concerned, and you will never get a dime from me.

Instead of caving to illiberal groups, you must stand up to them and defend the UW, a once great university.

Only children and simpletons would think people from the past must be banished for not meeting the standards of today. People should be evaluated according to the world they were living in; that is how we determine character. It is simplistic to think otherwise, and frankly, embarrassing that a university I attended doesn't acknowledge this.

Perhaps even more troubling, I believe many activists understand this but are simply manipulating university administrations to gain political power.

Please do the right thing, protect the statue, and defend our values. Perhaps a simple statement would suffice:
“Lincoln died trying to abolish slavery. The statue will remain on Bascom Hill.”

Sincerely yours,

Carrie Moore



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [David Friedman](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:43:37 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: David Friedman <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:43 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

[REDACTED] with a BA and JD from the University. I am also a member of 2 civil rights advocacy organizations. I want you to know that I support your position on the Lincoln statue.

I have taken Aaron Bird Bear's course on effigy mounds and monuments and the UW's response to the issues the course covers. And I agree with that approach.

Removal of the statue does not enhance knowledge - - on the contrary, it eliminates it. I am a big believer in the views expressed in the plaque on Bascom Hall.

Sincerely,

David R. Friedman

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:00:30 AM

Thank you very much for your reply.

I wholeheartedly support the phrase , *I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist.*

Good luck as you continue to face issues such as these.

Amy Maurice

On Tue, Jun 30, 2020, 10:40 AM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These

universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 4:58 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

Please do not allow the statue to Lincoln to be removed from our campus.

The comments that Lincoln was not "pro-black", which have been put forth by Nalah McWhorter to warrant the removal of the statue are absolutely absurd.

The people of our newly formed state and our turbulent nation who defended the Union in the Civil War, though they sacrificed their lives over 150 years ago, would be ashamed to hear such comments.

Ms. Blank, I could write many, many more reasons

for keeping Lincoln right where he is. I am counting on you and our UW leadership to do the right thing.

You have a tough decision to make, but please look at the whole picture of our state and make the right decision.

In support of our great state and our great university,

Amy Maurice

From: [Robin Stroebel](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:09:51 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

This is lovely, but not a Native American issue at this time, is it? Or is it another angle for an argument to do away with the statue? That would be a very big mistake. A great university removes an icon because a few indignant or violent people demand it, against the wishes of thousands of supporters? This is a time for UW to educate, not capitulate.

Regards,

Robin

Robin Stroebel, ASID, RID, LEED AP I D + C
InteriorLOGIC, Inc.
Workplace Strategy
(O) 608.316.3870
(M) [REDACTED]

www.intlogic.com

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 26, 2020, at 3:06 PM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

>

> Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

>

> As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

>

> We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

>

> The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

>

> As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

>

> We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing

some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

>

> Office of the Chancellor

> University of Wisconsin-Madison

> chancellor@wisc.edu

>

>

> On 6/26/20, 6:50 AM, "Robin Stroebel" <rstroebel@intlogic.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Chancellor Blank,

>

> The Lincoln statue is the focal point of Bascom Hill. It is revered by thousands of students and alums, including myself as a student passing by every day and today as an alum. It is a campus icon and represents the University of Wisconsin Madison. Just last year I finally made it to the top to rub the nose of the great Abraham Lincoln. I support leaving this statue in place and protecting it to whatever extent necessary during this time.

>

> This great man led the effort to free the slaves. Over 600,000 Americans and new immigrants died fighting to free slaves. Let us not forget that fact in this small moment in time where history is being twisted. It is the job of our great university to share the story and the evolution of the history of our state and country, not destroy it forever along with the memories of thousands of alums who support the university today.

>

> I support the university in protecting this statue. There are other ways to support peaceful protestors in their mission. This is not one of them, considering the emotional and significant unintended consequences that could result of the removal of this important symbol from its spot.

>

> Regards,

>

> Robin Stroebel '76

>

> Robin Stroebel, ASID, RID, LEED AP I D + C

> InteriorLOGIC, Inc.

> Workplace Strategy

> (O) 608.316.3870

> (M) [REDACTED]

>

> www.intlogic.com

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Sunday, October 11, 2020 11:08:17 AM

Great. Thank you for your response.

John Conti Lighting, Inc.

[REDACTED]
Office (818) 954-0586

Mobile [REDACTED]

On Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 7:58 AM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for your message—Chancellor Blank has no plans to remove the Lincoln Statue from the UW-Madison campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 at 4:22 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Lincoln Statue

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Conti <[REDACTED]>
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 2:14 PM
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
To: <waa@uwalumni.com>

Thank you, I will do that. But this is Nicki not John! P.s my husband is a student of the Civil War years and I am sure he would agree!

On Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 1:46 PM Customer Service WAA <waa@uwalumni.com> wrote:

Hello John,

Thanks for your email. I would recommend that you send your email to the chancellor's office email address, chancellor@news.wisc.edu, to ensure that your sentiments are properly documented by the UW-Madison campus.

Have a nice day,

Melissa Zehner


Alumni Services

Wisconsin Alumni Association*

[650 N. Lake Street](#)
[Madison, WI 53706](#)
waa@uwalumni.com

Voice: 608.262.2551

** a division of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association*

On Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 3:15 PM John Conti <> wrote:

I am not sure who to send this email to. Hopefully, this will be passed on to someone who will listen.

Unfortunately , I just read that there was some kind of vote by the student body to remove the Lincoln statue on campus..... I am so mad to hear this. As a graduate who went thru the 60's (a history major) and my husband who went thru the 70's ; we certainly know about protesting for good causes..... this seems to be an over reaching use of protest for a group of students....taking it way too far. Please don't let this happen to the UW. I can't support protest or institutions , when it becomes absurd.

Thank You,

D.N Conti

Sent from my iPad

--

John Conti Lighting, Inc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office (818) 954-0586

Mobile [REDACTED]

--

John Conti Lighting, Inc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office (818) 954-0586

Mobile [REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:19:49 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 3:36 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue

University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Bascom Hill Office of the Chancellor
Madison, Wisconsin

Chancellor Blank,

I read with horror in the Wisconsin State Journal this morning that the Lincoln Statue is actually under attack! This is the final straw and a line in the sand must be drawn! I am quite certain you understand what this statue means to the vast majority of Wisconsin grads. You need to make certain the statue is now under guard 24/7 by campus security and it must not be defaced in any way or any action permitted to remove it.

If that were to happen, I probably don't need to tell you, the University of Wisconsin would be finished. You would never collect another nickel of donations or bequests from the vast majority of grads.

Based on what I am seeing and hearing, I think a lot more "Winnowing and Sifting By Which Alone the Truth Can Be Found" needs to be done by your administration on a number of different subjects. The campus has always had a very liberal slant but I believe the pendulum has swung too far to the left and needs to come back to the middle so all sides can be heard and reason prevails.

Regards,

David L. Hulett - BS '63

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Jerald Jansen](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 8:39:41 PM

Hi Jerry—I hope you're doing well and staying healthy!

Thanks for sharing your views on this topic-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement, below.

John Lucas
University Communications

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Jerald Jansen [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Jerald Jansen <jjansen777@cox.net>
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 3:16 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

Chancellor Blank,

My wife and I are both graduates of UW-Madison and are disturbed and dismayed at the movement to remove the Lincoln statue from Bascom Hill. I believe it is an inappropriate knee-jerk reaction to the police and other maltreatment of people of color across the country. We support the mission of Black Lives Matter, but not necessarily all of their methods. Peaceful protests are more than appropriate as long as they are not usurped by those only interested in chaos and fear.

Similarly, there are those wishing to remove Confederate statues, and although as a student of the Civil War, I am not excited about that. But I clearly understand the boilover of frustration after so many years of repression.

However, as it pertains to Mr. Lincoln, I feel he more than redeemed himself from some of his earlier views, and in the context of the time, he was quite progressive. He wanted to retain the Union as one country, and first sought some compromise, but it was not to be. He navigated the country through unbelievably hard times, and eventually, the country remained as one, yet some of those divisions still remain today.

These many years later, I cannot fathom this movement to wipe away Lincoln's accomplishments. So please place us in the column of those opposed to the removal of the Bascom Hill statue.

Cordially,

Jerald Jansen, BA, MSSW

Chief, Shorewood Hills Police Dept. (ret. 2004)

Asst. Chief, UW Police Dept. (2004-2007)

Diana Jansen, BSN, RN (ret. 2002)

University of Wisconsin Hospital
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:56:46 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:36 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: Lincoln Statue

Abe feedback.

Thanks,
Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:22 AM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

Hello,

I don't know to what degree the media reports of the Lincoln Statue debate are true (seems like these days all we get are *degrees* of truth), but I wanted to add my voice, as a concerned citizen. I urge you, courteously but emphatically, to defend the statue from destruction, or any misguided ideologies which seek its destruction.

Mr. Lincoln's most enduring legacy is the *preservation* of the union; shall we not now maintain this will-to-preservation in the face of forces driven by division? A concession to these forces would be an aberration of history, reason and patriotism.

I wish you all luck in navigating these strangest of seas.

-Christopher Vinson

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:59:42 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:04 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue

As a political science graduate, Class of 1978, and after a 30 year career as an Assistant Public Defender working with the indigent in Chicago, I am disturbed by the short-sighted attitude of current UW Madison students towards the statue that stands at the top of Bascom Hill. Please put

my name down as an alumna AGAINST removal of the Lincoln statue. These children may know their history, but they did not participate in anti-Vietnam War protests, nor pro-ERA marches. There have been many people in the U.S. who suffered discrimination due to gender, religion, and factors other than skin color. You youngsters are not reinventing the wheel. Study . . . Do Not Destroy. Education is the great equalizer.

Thank you, Chancellor,

Anne (Rhodes) Dykes

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:12:59 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/27/20, 8:49 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Chancellor Blank,

My name is Matthew Habada and I am a avid supporter of the UW, and sports teams. I have not missed a home football game since 2008. I have read the recent talks about certain students wanting to take down Abe Lincoln on Bascom hill. Please do the right thing and do not let that happen. President Lincoln's history is one of the best, abolishing slavery is one example. I ask that you keep President Lincoln on top of that hill as it is a simple of his great legacy and of the University of Wisconsin. When College Gameday is in Madison, seeing the President on TV is iconic.

Please do the right thing. Thank you,
Matthew

Sent from my iPhone XS on Verizon

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:08:20 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/25/20, 5:58 PM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

I just read a report activist are demanding the Lincoln statue be removed from Bascom Hill. First, it would be appropriate to educate the activists that Lincoln ended slavery, apparently something high schools and colleges no longer feel is an appropriate history lesson. Second, if UW honors the removal request then don't be hypocritical: return ALL land to the Ho-Chunk nation for their resettlement and move UW to a "neutral" location.

Protect the statue (ie, change your attitude, honor and uphold laws against vandalism).

Congratulations on creating this environment!!! As a UW graduate I testify it took 20 years to deprogrammed the liberal toxicity I learned there.

Gail Specht

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:49:14 PM

Please see the statement below from Chancellor Blank:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to [the resources and initiatives](#) already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon. I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 1:31 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue

The removal of the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill is not an option.
thank you.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:29:33 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 1:12 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln Statue

Chancellor Blank,

I am a proud UW-Madison alum, along with my sister, my parents and two of my grandparents. I completed my undergraduate degree here: I lived in the dorms, worked in campus dining, worked for the McBurney Disability resource center. After medical school I returned to do my residency training here. Now I am a student again in the graduate school here, studying population health. I believe in this university.

I am writing today to ask that you support the effort to take down the Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill. As a white alum, I have many fond memories of walking past the statue between classes. But learning more about the statue's history, and more importantly the way that history makes Black and Native members of our campus community feel, I strongly support their calls to remove and replace this statue.

Historically, our campus has not done enough to support its minority students. It is not enough to make public statements that Black Lives Matter. We have to listen to our Black peers on this campus. When they tell us that a monument here makes them feel unwelcome we must listen. We must value the experience of our peers over sentimental attachments to property.

Please listen to our Black and Native campus community. Please remove and replace the Lincoln Statue!

KJ Hansmann

--

KJ Hansmann, MD, MPH
Family Medicine Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of Wisconsin - Madison



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln Statue; International Students
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:19:17 AM

Thank you for your quick response and for sending me the link to Chancellor Blank's statement.

I think it is important to understand the history of Abraham Lincoln but to not do so in a way that glorifies his presidency. I believe that having a statue of him idolizes him in a way that erases the irreparable harm that he caused to 250 Native nations with 160 violence-backed land cessions and his upholding of white supremacy.

Many of the institutions that were funded by these grants continue to profit off of them (e.g., through mineral rights). I'd like to know where UW-Madison stands on giving back earnings that it received through these grants to the Native communities upon which UW-Madison stands and took from, and I would like to see greater transparency on the history of UW-Madison using this endowment up to the present day. In my four years at UW-Madison, I never heard discussion about Abraham Lincoln's destructive actions and ideology; all I saw was a tradition of using his statue as good fortune.

I urge you to consider that, while Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation into law, he didn't do so on his own. There were many radical Black abolitionists -- Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, for example -- who were so much more powerful and influential to this movement than Lincoln. I would encourage you to consider removing this statue to show solidarity with Black students and to replace him with the true abolitionists behind the Proclamation.

Until yesterday, I was earnestly considering applying for graduate school. I have a deep love and respect for CHE and wanted to be a part of that department. But, in light of where Madison stands on these issues, and within the context of Madison's past responses to racism on campus (e.g., to the costume that depicted Obama in a noose in 2016), it's hard for me to reconsider this campus as an opportunity for future education for me.

I encourage you to listen to the Black and Indigenous students at this university and their demands, and I'd like to see concrete change that shows solidarity with the movement of Black liberation. Until then, I'll be dropping future ties with UW-Madison.

Best,
Kathryn Hartfield

On Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 9:03 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below.

Also, please also see her response to the ICE issue:

<https://news.wisc.edu/chancellor-blank-statement-on-new-ice-rule/>

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon. I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 4:21 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln Statue; International Students

Hello,

My name is Kathryn Hartfield, and I'm an alumna of UW. I'm writing to urge you to take down the statue of Lincoln from campus. Though Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, he said on September 18, 1858:

"I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the black and white races -- that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any of her man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race." (Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/1860/12/28/archives/mr-lincoln-and-negro-equality.html>)

Lincoln also signed the Morrill Act of 1864 into law, which granted land to states to finance the establishment of 52 colleges and universities by violently seizing 11,000,000 acres of Indigenous land through violence-backed force.

Please consider the removal of the Lincoln statue from the campus.

I'd also like to use this opportunity to write about the latest announcement from ICE. They announced yesterday that international students must take in-person classes at universities, or they will be forced to leave the country. Please do everything in your power to protect international students so that they do not have to choose

between community health and leaving the country. Some students may be immunocompromised and disabled and unable to learn in person. Others may not wish to be in the classroom to protect the health of others during this pandemic. Many may not be able to return home for a myriad of reasons. Please do not put this stress onto our international classmates. Please do everything you can to protect them from deportation.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Hartfield

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln on Bascom - Thank You
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:16:11 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 11:37 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln on Bascom - Thank You

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I want to thank you for your opposition to removing the Abraham Lincoln statue from Bascom Hill. As a proud UW student, [REDACTED], someone of Latino descent, and as a historian, I believe that the statue should remain as a testament to UW's history and student traditions and, even more importantly, as a testament to American aspirational ideals. I work at the Wisconsin Historical Society and I am a dissertator, not in American history, but in British and Irish history. Yet, from childhood on I have studied the history of the US and, particularly, Lincoln's life and the issues surrounding the Civil War. America is not perfect, just as Lincoln was not, but his life weighed heavier towards the good, the just, the ever-improving than to the opposite. We must also be able to acknowledge that he held views and at times said things that today most would find problematic and hurtful, but that were historically representative of the era in which he lived.

As a historian, I believe that it is deeply problematic to expect historical figures to live up to current values. We need history education that challenges students to see things in historical context and with nuance. Careful study of his life shows a person whose views on race in America evolved over time. That said, he was always against slavery and its evils, even if he did not express the "radical" abolitionist views of his era.

In recent weeks, someone online noted, essentially, that we memorialize people like the Founding Fathers because of the good they did, in spite of the wrong, and that this is the opposite of the memorials to Confederate generals who have been honored for their wrongs. Similarly, the Lincoln statue is not on Bascom to represent racism or oppression of Native Americans. His statue represents, among other things, the dream of American opportunity (still so imperfect) in the person of a farm boy who became President, American flaws and capacity for growth, a desire for justice but also mercy, a leader who helped to defeat the Confederacy and put a Constitutional end to chattel slavery, American sacrifice, and "the better angels of our nature."

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Yes, systemic racism and inequality continue to plague our country, our state, our city, and our schools and we must confront that with honesty and vigor. Attention to the minority experience on campus, increased enrollments of minorities, and increased assistance in terms of scholarships, encouraging the development of paid internships, hiring, and programming, and really listening to the needs of minorities on campus and in the broader community will do far more than taking a statue down.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill - strongly AGAINST its removal!
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:02:15 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:23 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill - strongly AGAINST its removal!

Dear Ms. Blank -

As a proud member of UW Madison's graduation class of 1975, I feel strongly compelled to write this note to you regarding the initiative to take down the iconic Lincoln Statue at the top of Bascom Hill.

Some 45 years later, I still feel a very strong connection to the University and the wonderful experiences and education I received, while literally growing up in my six years on the campus. Particularly at the beginning of my education there in 1969 - we were in the midst of very turbulent times and I'm afraid we are again today.

No Abe Lincoln was not a perfect man but in my studies of my history major at the time and my continued reading to this day, he certainly appeared to be well ahead of his time. Who amongst us are perfect now and I certainly would ask those students who wish to erase any vestiges of our history - who amongst them are perfect as well?

Speaking for my brother, my wife and many other friends and relatives who feel privileged to call UW Madison the university from which we hold degrees, I feel extremely strongly that if we continue to give in to this mob mentality, we will be hurting our university and more broadly our country to a very large extent.

We have supported the University, the Alumni Association, the football team and many other aspects of the UW and Madison life over the years. I assure you that should this initiative win out, I and a very large group of UW supporters will NEVER give the University another dime, nor show support for it in any way.

I understand that you need to walk a fine line in listening to all points of view and I respect that but if we take down Lincoln, then there won't be much left that will be sacred.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Steve Zach](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:21:58 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 9:18 AM, "Steve Zach" <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:

Chancellor Blank,

I fully support your stance on keeping the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill. Abraham Lincoln was one of our greatest Presidents. His contributions to end slavery and hold this country together through the Civil War were instrumental in transforming us into one United Country. Don't give in to this radical movement of erasing our country's history. The point is to teach about the past, and then become better as a result. Stand firm and hold your ground!

Regards,

Steve Zach

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:25:23 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 6:00 AM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Dear Chancellor,

I am the mother of two UW-Madison students, a senior and an incoming freshman. I want to applaud your recent statements about the Abraham Lincoln statue and it's place on campus. The unrest that is happening in our country is placing the spotlight on ideas that make no sense and have no firm foundation. I was extremely pleased to hear your support in keeping the statue and that you have not caved in to unreasonable ideas concerning our country's history. I'm afraid that "the squeaky wheel gets the oil" far too many times, and in this instance I merely want you to know I stand with you on this!

Thank you for your bold leadership! You have been a blessing to UW-Madison.

Gratefully,
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Barbara Seman Ochs](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:31:33 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Barbara Seman Ochs <ochs@eglolaw.com>
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 at 12:33 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor Blank-

A dear friend in Madison forwarded to me an article on the demands of student groups to remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln from the UW campus. I was stunned, not so much that another

towering and imperfect giant in American history is under attack, but that a university administrator has taken a very strong stance on preserving the statue and advocates for education instead of "character assassination" of these very complicated leaders who lived in very complicated times.

I am a former high school history teacher and a lifelong student of American history. Unfortunately, history, as it is now taught in our schools and universities, has no depth and is often subject to the instructor's agenda. I applaud your vision and common sense and wish you well in your efforts to educate the academic and Madison community. You are truly a breath of fresh air.

Barbara Seman Ochs

EVANS, GARVEY, LACKEY & OCHS

www.eglolaw.com

19 Jefferson Ave.

P.O. Box 949

Sharon, PA 16146

724-342-6835

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Yiping Liu](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:28:04 PM

Hello Yiping Liu—Thank you for your message. There are no plans to remove the Lincoln Statue from Bascom Hill, though a student group has requested that we do so. Best,
John Lucas
University Communications

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Yiping Liu <yliu@pediatrics.wisc.edu>
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 2:03 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor Blank:

I got the news UW-Madison students will remove Lincoln Statue. Is that true?
As a scientist in UW Madison for 20 years, I would strongly oppose this action. Lincoln statue is a symbol of our university, it is a heritage of the our university. It witnessed our university for century. How could this year's student has this power to remove it? Who give them the right?

I will do my best to protect this statue and all other culture heritage in our campus.

Would you consider the reckless action of the students seriously?

Thanks a lot!

Yours Respectfully!

Yiping Liu PhD

Department of Pediatrics
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Building: MSB, Room 4125
1550 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-265-8230
Fax: 608-263-0722
Email: yliu@pediatrics.wisc.edu

From: [Meredith Mcglone](#)
To: [UR Council](#); [Stakeholders](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:14:32 PM

Resending to correct typo in final paragraph.

From: Meredith Mcglone <meredith.mcglone@wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 3:04 PM
To: UR Council <university_relations_council@lists.wisc.edu>, Stakeholders <stakeholders@lists.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue

Colleagues,

In response to public and media inquiries about the Lincoln statue, we are providing the following statement from Chancellor Blank to those who have asked about it. At this time it is not being broadly distributed.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

Best,
Meredith

Statement from Chancellor Blank:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to [the resources and initiatives](#) already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:58:57 AM

Thanks for sharing the Chancellor's statement. I had not seen it. Agree 100% that Abe should not be removed.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2020, at 7:14 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for passing along your suggestion—it will be shared with Chancellor Blank. Please also see her complete statement on this issue, below.
John Lucas
University Communications

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 1:23 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I am writing as a proud UW-Madison alumna ('78) and mother of two Badger sons. I just read about the demand of two student groups to remove the Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill.

While I have been supportive of the recent protests, I have found the mob destruction of statues disconcerting. I believe formal commissions of historians and community members should evaluate the statues and determine whether the individual depicted does or does not deserve a place of honor. Statues that are deemed offensive should be removed, but not destroyed. They should be housed in appropriate museums. History should not be forgotten but it does not need to be honored.

With regard to Lincoln (and Jefferson and Washington): These are great men but flawed men. I believe their contributions to our form of government and to incrementally making our country a more perfect union, must be always remembered. However, we can, at the same time, balance these contributions against their ownership of slaves or attitudes that expressed the superiority of one race over another. **To that end, I suggest a plaque near the Lincoln statue that gives a balanced view of Abraham Lincoln. Perhaps it could be drafted by a preeminent historian of our 16th president.**

On Wisconsin!



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:38:48 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 3:40 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

It makes no sense to me to remove the statue of Lincoln. I certainly hope the university doesn't entertain this request by a small minority of the population. These students shouldn't determine the removal of an iconic statue which has always represented the strength and courage of the U of WI.

I graduated with pride from the University of Wisconsin at Madison years ago. Whenever I see correspondence from U of W featuring Lincoln, I am reminded of the wonderful years spent on campus. I think back to the strong scholarship encouraged there, the brilliant professors, the friendships that have lasted me all these years. To think that a small group could now undermine these feelings for me is very sad. Bascom Hill without Lincoln would be pitiful.

Please consider all the rest of us who do not want this statue taken away and let democracy take place.

Sincerely,

Judith Babula Nocella

Class of 1963

June 30, 2020

From: [Jeffrey](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statue: Lincoln a friend of Black freedom and human rights
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 5:29:38 PM

Thank you.
Best,
Jeffrey Javid

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 30, 2020, at 9:38 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for your message—it will be shared with Chancellor Blank.

UW-Madison has no plans to move or alter the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Jeffrey [REDACTED] >
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 at 10:11 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statue: Lincoln a friend of Black freedom and human rights

Dear Chancellor Blank,

The Lincoln statue for good reason needs to remain.

Abraham Lincoln does indeed deserve his reputation as the Great Emancipator and, moreover, a place in the quest for racial justice. He was not anti-black.

In Chicago, in July 1858, Abraham Lincoln pleaded with his audience, "let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man; this race and that race and the other race being inferior, and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position; discarding our

standard that we have left us. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal...I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal."

Frederick Douglass was "impressed with his entire freedom from popular prejudice against the colored race" after meeting with Lincoln three times in the White House, and in 1865 called him "emphatically the black man's president."

In the 1850's, Lincoln had stated that he did not feel that it "bettered their condition" to keep blacks in America as "underlings." In a private letter, he wrote that he "abhors the oppression of Negroes"; and he was not just referring to slavery. Lincoln stated in that letter how slavery had "the power to make me miserable," because it denied African-Americans the right, the hope, to rise in life. He also wrote for his private notes a reflection that basing slavery on skin color, or intellect or moral endowments was wrong-headed as everyone could be said to differ in all those regards to some degree or another. Later, in 1859, Lincoln wrote against those white men who "insidiously" argue that the principles of the Declaration of Independence only apply to whites. In another private letter, from the time, he said he had "no objection" to marriage between black and white. Yet in the 1858 Illinois US Senate race against Stephen Douglas, the race-baiting incumbent whose intent was to paint Lincoln as a dangerous radical, Lincoln was running against the territorial expansion of slavery, and before racist voters in Illinois. Thus he tailored his message during the debates, in statements such as that referenced in an interview with the Black Student Union president where he expressed pessimism about the

future of race relations in America acknowledging the audience's prejudices: "there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

These and other statements were made because in 1858 he could only really advocate an anti-slavery position.

Lincoln never said blacks were inherently inferior. But, if he had advocated, or left unanswered charges of being for, full equality in 1858, he would most certainly have committed political suicide. As one historian has said, had Lincoln not made concessions to the political climate, "the Lincoln of history simply would not exist." Lincoln did state that the purpose of the Declaration of Independence is to "augment the happiness and value of life to all people, of all colors, everywhere."

Lincoln said the treatment of blacks in the US did not "accord with justice." Colonization was always to be voluntary; President Lincoln felt white prejudice so intractable that he urged black leaders to consider it, saying, "Go where you are treated the best." The goal was the establishment of a black-run government and society, free of oppression. Colonization was abandoned as ventures failed, and African-Americans largely rejected it. Lincoln said blacks and whites would just have to "live out of the old relation and come out better prepared for the new." While disagreeing with the Radical Republicans as to tactics, he said that he shared their sentiments and that at

least they were "facing Zionwards." It is not inconceivable that Lincoln still wished to afford those blacks who wished to escape white racism the choice, even as he was working to include blacks in the American polity.

His reputation as "Great Emancipator" rests not only on the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment with its unprecedented enforcement clause and unneeded presidential signature, but his request of Frederick Douglass, before his re-election and the 13th Amendment, to devise a plan to get as many slaves as possible out of the South while his re-election, the issue of the Proclamation's constitutionality, and the outcome of the war seemed in doubt. President Lincoln also approved of bills abolishing segregation on omnibuses in D.C.; for allowing black witnesses in federal courts; for equalizing penalties for the same crime; for equal pay for black soldiers; for ending discrimination on the basis of color in hiring US Mail carriers. He welcomed, for the first time, an ambassador from Haiti; African-Americans picnicked on the White House grounds. He supported the activities of the Freedmen's Bureau. He approved the transfer of hundreds of thousands of acres of abandoned plantation lands to freedmen and their families. When he visited occupied Richmond, he took off his hat and returned the bow of an elderly black man--an act of equality noted by sullen white onlookers and the press alike. In what was to be his last public address, Lincoln called for public schooling for blacks, and for the vote for black soldiers and the well educated. John Wilkes Booth, in the crowd, seethed "that means —citizenship", and vowed that the speech would be Lincoln's last.

Also, noteworthy is Lincoln's promise following the 1862 Sioux-U.S. War.

Lincoln commuted the sentences of 265 Dakota men, having insisted that in review a distinction be made between murder or rape and participation in battle. The number in legal review determined 39 men, with one of those being later removed because of a name error, kept on the execution list. It must be noted, the state of Minnesota would have killed all the condemned, and still the spirit of vigilantism was rampant to kill or to drive the Native Americans from state borders.

Lincoln had earlier asked the Secretary of the Interior to look into the matter of Indian Affairs reform. When Bishop Henry Whipple visited Lincoln in Washington to plead the cause of the 303 condemned men and to inform Lincoln of the perfidy of Government agents toward the Indians, Lincoln said that he could "feel the rascality of this Indian business down to my boots" and vowed to several people that when "this war ends, and if I live, this Indian system shall be reformed!" He brought the subject up in Annual Message to Congress, but Congress did nothing.

In 1864 Lincoln told the Native American rights advocate John Beeson, "You may rest assured that as soon as the pressing matters of this war is settled the Indians shall have my first care and I will not rest until Justice is done to their and your satisfaction."

Lincoln had inherited a lamentable and deplorable Indian system. Who knows what a second term might have brought to US government-American Indian relations.

Again, Lincoln was murdered because he came out for voting rights for African-Americans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Javid

[Redacted signature block]

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln stature
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:18:47 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 9:16 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln stature

Dear Ms. Blank,

I just heard on TV that UW Madison students want the statue of Lincoln removed. Black student [REDACTED] said in an interview that Lincoln "freed the slaves but gave them no rights or reparations". Your response was given as "Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed".

It is outrageous that these students are trying to remove the statue of one of our greatest presidents, without the benefit of having been educated on history and the folly of applying today's standards, norms, and political and social environment to that of the standards, norms, and political and social environment that existed 160 years ago.

Your response was tepid at best, and you should be strongly defending this selfless, long-suffering president instead of dancing around the issue. His legacy isn't complex; the times during which he served as president were complex.

Someone from your history department should educate your students. They have it so wrong. As a tax-paying citizen of this state, I'm deeply offended.

Cindy Vitale

From: [Millman, Robert](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statute
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:16:02 PM

Thank you

Robert Millman
Littler Mendelson, P.C.
[2049 Century Park East, 5th Floor](#)
[Los Angeles, California 90067](#)
Direct: [\(310\) 772-7206](#)
E-mail: RFMillman@littler.com

Sent from my iPhone (please pardon any typos or auto-correct errors)

On Jul 1, 2020, at 11:12 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL]

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln’s legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "Millman, Robert" <RFMillman@littler.com>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1:10 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Lincoln statute

Chancellor Blank:

Please share this email widely . Both of my deceased parents were UW graduates. My sister and her husband are UW graduates. I am a UW graduate . My sister’s oldest daughter graduated from UW for her BA and JD .

If the University of Wisconsin removes the Abraham Lincoln statute I will resign my alumni membership and disassociate myself from all things associated with the University of Wisconsin .

Respectfully , Robert Millman

Robert Millman
Littler Mendelson, P.C.
[2049 Century Park East, 5th Floor](#)
[Los Angeles, California 90067](#)

Direct: [\(310\) 772-7206](tel:3107727206)
E-mail: RFMillman@littler.com

Sent from my iPhone (please pardon any typos or auto-correct errors)

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [FPM Communications](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln statute
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:15:34 AM

Thanks—we did respond to this one

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: FPM Communications <communications@fpm.wisc.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 8:50 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: Steve Wagner <steven.wagner@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: Lincoln statute

Please see below for some alumni feedback about the Lincoln statue.

Steve Wagner
Communications Director
Facilities Planning & Management

From: Millman, Robert <RFMillman@littler.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 6:07 PM
To: FPM Communications <communications@fpm.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln statute

Please share this email widely . Both of my deceased parents were UW graduates. My sister and her husband are UW graduates. I am a UW graduate . My sister's oldest daughter graduated from UW for her BA and JD .

If the University of Wisconsin removes the Abraham Lincoln statute I will resign my alumni membership and disassociate myself from all things associated with the University of Wisconsin .

Respectfully , Robert Millman

Robert Millman
Littler Mendelson, P.C.
[2049 Century Park East, 5th Floor](#)
[Los Angeles, California 90067](#)
Direct: [\(310\) 772-7206](tel:(310)772-7206)
E-mail: RFMillman@littler.com

Sent from my iPhone (please pardon any typos or auto-correct errors)

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From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln's Statue
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:42:22 AM

Paul—Thanks for your message.

Chancellor Blank has no plans to remove the Lincoln Statue. Her view of the situation is below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community.

Best,
John Lucas
University Communications

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 1:51 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln's Statue

Dear Chancellor Blank: I know only what I read in the newspapers or hear on WPR but there continues to be a push to remove Lincoln's Statue from Bascom Hill. It is an idea gone amuck. I hope you will continue to resist the suggestion but I want you to understand that, should you give in, that will end my support of the UW, much as that action would break my heart.

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln's Statue
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:45:37 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 at 9:52 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln's Statue

Please, sir, do not yield to the rantings of a misguided mob. Preserve the great legacy of President Lincoln and his connection to your university and the end to slavery in our country. I implore you, do not remove the statue!!

R,
Dave Foster
Concerned and Proud American

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln's statue
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 2:17:18 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/3/20, 1:37 PM, "[REDACTED]" wrote:

Chancellor Blank,

Please consider one alum's feelings about Abraham Lincoln and his statue.

Certainly, Lincoln went along to get along, like we sometimes do. Yes, Lincoln did chase Blackhawk in Olbrich Park, my childhood playground, and more.

Yet, with our nation in crisis, Abraham Lincoln showed goodness in emancipating slaves and in another, Abraham Lincoln showed goodness when he commuted death sentences of 100s of Native Americans.

We honor Abraham Lincoln in a statue for his goodness that ought to remain where it is on Bascom Hill.

Sincerely,

Ronald Hevey
UW BS-EE, 1964

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:24:57 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 6:34 AM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Hello,

Please don't cave in to Small, but loud, groups calling for statues to be taken down.

Ben Wacker, 2004 grad

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:32:10 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >

Date: Sunday, July 5, 2020 at 1:50 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln

Chancellor Blank,

Please stand firm about maintaining the Lincoln statue in front of Bascom. Acquiescing to its removal would appeal to a very small group with warped ideas of relative importance.

The ridiculously, manufactured notion that Lincoln was not “pro-black” and that this overwhelms all of his other actions to eliminate slavery and preserve the integrity of the U.S., indicates that there is a never ending series of real and imagined ills from pressure groups that are obsessed with racial division. Sondheim composed lines that are applicable, “send in the clowns, don’t bother, they’re here”.

Don Baldwin, ChE '57

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:45:05 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 6:15 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln

Please do not remove President Lincoln's statue. He is a hero to this country who fought for freedom for all. He gave his life so others would have freedom and liberty.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 5:22:12 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 5:18 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln

Takin down statue is wrong.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:02:02 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/26/20, 12:19 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear UW Chancellor Blank—

Thank you for your comments defending Abraham Lincoln. I appreciate the incite you give regarding people of history even the highly esteemed Abraham Lincoln. The good he did for our country with regards to emancipation far out ways any personal flaw. Perhaps these students should examine even the esteemed Martin Luther King Jr.—the point is as humans we are all flawed. No human was ever perfect except One, but raising His statue would raise another ire. Without Abraham Lincoln, there would not be the great works of MLK. Thank you for pointing out that actions/statements of a 100+years ago cannot be examined the same as present day, they must be examined in light of that culture. Statements and language we used just decades ago have evolved. What was acceptable and not deemed offensive then is now seen as offensive, and because of being educated on the matter we alter what we now say or now acknowledge a better understanding of issues. However we don't and can't erase history. We build upon it.

Regarding the statement of our lands belonged to another people group—but so did the entire United States. In honesty the whole world has different people groups now living where other cultures previously lived. You can't

change history—can just learn from it. This whole statue upheaval has got to stop—Removing Abraham Lincoln’s statue as well as toppling the Capitol statues seem so misguided. They represent self sacrifice and forward progress. The Bascom Hill Lincoln statue is a reminder to all of us to keep fighting for equality. Where do we draw the line on offensive statues? Perhaps some are offended by Barry’s statue at Camp Randall—is he perfect? This starts to sound absurd. We all want a better America, but choosing to removing statues vs educating is short-sighted.

Thank you again for all the work you do to make UW an outstanding institution.

Leigh Barczy



iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 6:15:11 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]" >
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 5:27 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Lincoln

Dear Chancellor Blank

I just want to register my complete opposition to moving or removing the statue of Abraham Lincoln atop Bascom Hill. Rather, the university should invest, over time, in more public art celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black Americans and other, underrepresented Americans. Who knows, maybe the University will be able to teach the president who Frederick Douglass is. But I wouldn't bet on it.

Jesse Lyne

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Scott Vincent](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:14:44 AM

Thank you for the courtesy of your very thoughtful reply. I wish you success in your endeavors.

Scott Vincent

On Jul 1, 2020, at 10:25 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Scott Vincent [REDACTED] >
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:09 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/university-of-wisconsin-students-say-abraham-lincoln-statue-at-madison-campus-must-come-down>

Chancellor, at what point does one stand up to activists on campus who look for any and every pretext for tearing down a Lincoln statue? If the implicit argument is, “this person is flawed etc,” do we apply the same standards to statues of black historical figures like Malcom X who was a pimp and Dr. Martin Luther King who reportedly had affairs and was linked to the Communist Party? Of course not. Humans are flawed and we celebrate them for their overarching achievements, not their flaws or errors. The same is true of Lincoln who ended slavery in the south with the Emancipation Proclamation and Jefferson who ended it in the north with the Declaration of Independence. It is asinine to subject history to purity tests, particularly when organizations pushing for same have their roots in Marxism, which has its own ideological aims independent of racial interests. The BLM co-founder reportedly stated that she is a “trained Marxist.” At what point do you consider whether student demands are being made by those care about the black population, or those who are advancing the goals of Marxism?

The only real answer to race is to let go of it. It’s the 21st century and we are still talking about slavery from the mid 19th. There will never be a solution to heal that awful pain. The only real answer to embrace a new paradigm — to cease identifying ourselves and each other by our outward appearances — the color of our skin — the things that divide us — and identify instead with the shared inward livingness or spirit that is common to all — our common heritage. Only then will have any real prospect of being one United people living in peace. Race and skin color are forever flawed by history and have to go.

Sincerely,
Scott Vincent

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:56:45 PM

Thanks for the response. I agree that a re-examination is warranted, but I'd rather it be done in a rational, measured way.

Thanks,
Jean

On Thu, Jun 25, 2020 at 3:49 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:
Please see the statement below from Chancellor Blank:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/24/20, 3:13 PM, "Ask Bucky" <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu> wrote:

Hi All,

Do you mind responding to this one or sending us some talking points if you prefer that we respond?

Thanks,

Emily

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln

Good afternoon-

I suspect someone is already on it, but can we box up Abe until the iconoclastic demonstrations are done? I'm afraid protestors are going to start looking to the other side of State Street before long. :(

Thanks,
Jean Hetzel Kveberg
PharmD '02, BS '03

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lincoln, Bascom Hill & UW
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:02:25 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/26/20, 9:44 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Chancellor Blank,

People and institutions are not perfect. The UW student body is not perfect. As a supporter of UW removing the statue of Lincoln on Bascom Hill is mistake. Lincoln literally gave his life as did thousands of others to preserve this country. You and I know that too to be true. Do the people offended by the Lincoln's statue know anything about his story?. I forgot the author who wrote " There is nothing more frightening than ignorance in action", true when written and true today. Legacy is a word that means something at UW. Defend our great university. Thank you.

Jim Marcello
[REDACTED]

From: [Jeff Javid](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln, equality, and the statue on the Hill
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 4:14:32 PM

Dear Chancellor's Office.

Thank you for the Chancellor's statement. I appreciate her stance and support her efforts to shared goals. I sent my letter to Chancellor Blank in hopes she might read it to find that Lincoln was not anti-Black or against equality but was actually, given the political climate, pretty enlightened while still being effective as a politician and statesman. I hope you can forward my letter to her.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Javid
Madison

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 26, 2020, at 3:07 PM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Jeff Javid [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 9:57 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln, equality, and the statue on the Hill

Dear Chancellor Blank,

Abraham Lincoln does indeed deserve his reputation as the Great Emancipator and, moreover, a place in the quest for racial justice. He was not anti-black.

In Chicago, in July 1858, Abraham Lincoln pleaded with his audience, "let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man; this race and that race and the other race being inferior, and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position; discarding our standard that we have left us. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal...I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal."

Frederick Douglass was "impressed with his entire freedom from popular prejudice against the colored race" after meeting with Lincoln three times in the White House, and in

1865 called him "emphatically the black man's president."

In the 1850's, Lincoln had stated that he did not feel that it "bettered their condition" to keep blacks in America as "underlings." In a private letter, he wrote that he "abhors the oppression of Negroes"; and he was not just referring to slavery. Lincoln stated in that letter how slavery had "the power to make me miserable," because it denied African-Americans the right, the hope, to rise in life. He also wrote for his private notes a reflection that basing slavery on skin color, or intellect or moral endowments was wrong-headed as everyone could be said to differ in all those regards to some degree or another. Later, in 1859, Lincoln wrote against those white men who "insidiously" argue that the principles of the Declaration of Independence only apply to whites. In another private letter, from the time, he said he had "no objection" to marriage between black and white. Yet in the 1858 Illinois US Senate race against Stephen Douglas, the race-baiting incumbent whose intent was to paint Lincoln as a dangerous radical, Lincoln was running against the territorial expansion of slavery, and before racist voters in Illinois. Thus he tailored his message during the debates, in statements such as that referenced in an interview with a Black Student Union representative

where he expressed pessimism about the future of race relations in America acknowledging the audience's prejudices: "there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

These and other statements were made because in 1858 he could only really advocate an anti-slavery position.

Lincoln never said blacks were inherently inferior. But, if he had advocated, or left unanswered charges of being for, full equality in 1858, he would most certainly have committed political suicide. Lincoln did state that the purpose of the Declaration of Independence is to "augment the happiness and value of life to all people, of all colors, everywhere."

Lincoln said the treatment of blacks in the US did not "accord with justice." Colonization was always to be voluntary; President Lincoln felt white prejudice so intractable that he urged black leaders to consider it, saying, "Go where you are treated the best." The goal was the establishment of a black-run government and society, free of oppression. Colonization was abandoned as ventures failed, and African-Americans largely rejected it. Lincoln said blacks and whites would just have to "live out of the old relation and come out better prepared for the new." While disagreeing with the Radical Republicans as to tactics, he said that he shared their sentiments and that at least they were "facing Zionwards." It is not inconceivable that Lincoln still wished to afford those blacks who wished to escape white racism the choice, even as he was working to include blacks in the American polity.

His reputation as "Great Emancipator" rests not only on the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment with its unprecedented enforcement clause and unneeded presidential signature, but his request of Frederick Douglass, before his re-election and the 13th Amendment, to devise a plan to get as many slaves as possible out of the South while his re-election, the issue of the Proclamation's constitutionality, and the outcome of the war seemed in doubt. President Lincoln also approved of bills abolishing segregation on omnibuses in D.C.; for allowing black witnesses in federal courts; for equalizing penalties for the same crime; for equal pay for black soldiers; for ending discrimination on the basis of color in hiring US Mail carriers. He welcomed, for the first time, an ambassador from Haiti; African-Americans picnicked on the White House grounds. He supported the activities of the Freedmen's Bureau. He approved the transfer of hundreds of thousands of acres of abandoned plantation lands to freedmen and their families. When he visited occupied Richmond, he took off his hat and returned the bow of an elderly black man--an act of equality noted by sullen white onlookers and the press alike. In what was to be his last public address, Lincoln called for public schooling for blacks, and for the vote for black soldiers and the well educated. John Wilkes Booth, in the crowd, seethed "that means —citizenship", and vowed that the speech would be Lincoln's last.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Javid



Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Ask Bucky](#)
Subject: Re: Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:22:17 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:02 AM

To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Lincoln

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: glenn bubb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:59:56 AM
To: askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: Lincoln

You must not remove Lincoln because a few CURRENT students want you too. Does Anyone in your college want the status to remain? Are future students going to come because it's still there? Answer to both is YES! Will America forever be controlled and dictated to about what's acceptable by a few? Is history and education forever gone only to be replaced by an indoctrinate system of mindless servants? PLEASE STOP the madness! Please allow Lincoln and other thought provoking icons to remain in place.

Thank you for your time
Glenn

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Linda Foss](#)
Subject: Re: Masks to stop spread of covid
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:24:43 PM

Thanks for your suggestion—the “Well Read” Bucky statue near Alumni Park and a Bucky statue within Bascom Hall have masks, but currently, there is not a plan to add one to the Lincoln Statue.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Reply-To: Linda Foss <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 9:44 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Masks to stop spread of covid

Dear Chancellor,

I strongly request that Abe Lincoln wear a mask as an example for the students to follow.

Sincerely,
Linda Foss x75

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Message from a Disappointed Student
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:49:56 AM

[REDACTED] —Thank you for your message. It has been shared with Chancellor Blank, Vice Chancellor Lori Reesor and Chief Diversity Officer Cheryl Gittens.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 4:33 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Message from a Disappointed Student

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a senior here at UW Madison.

I'm reaching out to say from the bottom of my heart that I think you are failing your students in your role as chancellor.

In the three years I've been at UW, I've been constantly losing more and more faith in this institution until it has dwindled to barely anything. Your response to the Black Lives Matter movement and to COVID have solidified to me that you do not have your students' best interests at heart. You care more about saving your money and saving face than saving UW students from violence, sickness, and alienation on campus.

First, **I want to talk about your response to the Black Lives Matter movement**, and your general apathy towards Black, Indigenous, and POC students.

I read the email that you sent about Black Lives Matter, and it made me sick. The email is a PR stunt to show your "support" for black lives. But before the movement, I don't remember receiving any emails on how much you care about Black students. And clearly, from the countless testimonies on the @bipocatwisco Instagram page, you don't!

How can you look the other way when so many students are experiencing racism, violence, emotional manipulation, isolation, and fear on campus?

Your email is full of bullshit, and you know it is... because you are smart, if not compassionate. I'll list some of the bullshit below.

1. You say you want to serve your BIPOC students, but you ignore them when they make demands to you. For example, Indigenous students have been asking for the removal of Abe Lincoln for YEARS, and you haven't done it. What??? That just doesn't add up. You care more about the presence of long dead president Lincoln, (a killer of Indigenous people, a white supremacist, a shining symbol of whiteness and fake white saviorism), than you do the voices of current UW students?? And you have the audacity to say that you LISTEN to the students. White students line up to sit in Lincoln's lap, and you can't let that go, so you allow a symbol of racism to sit and overlook the entire university, clearly communicating to BIPOC students that you give zero fucks about them. You also refuse to remove a ROCK, that was named by KKK members. It would be so easy to remove? You're literally doing construction on Bascom Hill right now? Why don't you just remove these things?

2. You say that you are "Developing a fundraising initiative with the goal of raising at least \$10 million in new private gifts, working in partnership with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. We will use these funds to recruit a more diverse group of students, faculty and staff, and to build a campus culture that welcomes and retains all groups, particularly people of color."

Why is this 10 million dollars going to majorly white associations?? Why are you not distributing this money to Black led, Indigenous led, POC led organizations on campus? Especially after the racism and exclusion of the Alumni Association that multiple students have attested to on @bipocatwisco.

Give this money directly to BIPOC students and orgs!!!

3. You say, under the Campus History section: "Two years ago, I committed \$1 million to a [public history project](#), designed to explore the experiences of more marginalized groups on campus, focusing on particular events or time periods."

Don't talk so highly of yourself and your meager contribution. On your personal salary ALONE, you literally make a million dollars in two years. And THAT'S the amount you think is fit for educating an entire campus on "uncomfortable truths of the university's past"?! It's more than an uncomfortable truth, it's genocide of an entire people. It's KKK members being backed up by the university.

You say you gave this 1 million dollars two years ago. So, what are you doing RIGHT NOW and what will you do?

Also, 1 million dollars is 0.3 percent of the University Budget. So, you're not fooling anyone into thinking you care about spreading the truth about campus history.

4. "Make mandatory the [Our Wisconsin](#) training program for all new entering undergraduate students starting this fall. Similar to trainings that are already required on alcohol safety and sexual violence prevention, it is critical that we provide students with an understanding about culture, identity, and difference, as well as the skills and commitment to create a community that is inclusive of all people."

Ah, yes, a training module. I remember being forced to complete the sexual assault training module myself, and it was one of the worst experiences. It actually made me more uncomfortable, because I realized that the University has no clue on how to discuss sexual assault and how to protect students from it. Not once did the module say "Do not sexually assault another person. Do not touch someone without their consent." None of it was preventative, it placed all responsibility on survivors. I wrote to you about that module, and never heard back. And, obviously UW does not care AT ALL about taking sexual assault cases seriously, because they never convict the violent assaulters, but let them walk free. So, what does this new training module look like? You are aggravatingly vague about it.

Does it mention Black Lives Matter? Is it set up to benefit white students (as it shouldn't), or to support BIPOC students (as it should)? Who created it? What the fuck is this thing we're all required to take 30 minutes of our time for?? Anyway, I'm not convinced.

5. Your whole section on policing. I don't think you heard correctly, students want you to DEFUND and ABOLISH the police, not add on a couple random reforms. There is evidence that reforms don't work. Kenosha police went through anti-racist training about a month before one of their own shot a man 7 times in the back with his kids in the car. And, you say this. "Finally, I have to note that change can be slow." This is so insulting to people actually trying to make change. It's dangerous for people who you could fool into thinking fast, meaningful change isn't possible. The truth is, you could make the change quickly, you just don't care enough to.

Okay, **now I'll move on to your email about COVID.**

It starts off pretty bad with "We're on the cusp of what is sure to be one of the most unusual fall semesters in our university's history." Unusual? More like you are bringing back thousands of students in the midst of a pandemic that's killed millions of people. Below are more of my concerns.

*We're more than "anxious" about it, some of us are really in danger of long term health effects and death. The "smart" restart will endanger downtown Homeless people (who are much more at risk to the virus) who are constantly exposed to students (who are at lower risk).

*You have kept dining halls open, but closed residence hall kitchens. That means you are forcing students to pay at least 1,400 dollars for a meal plan in an already financially hard time. Also, dining halls are one of the most packed places on campus.

*You say that you will keep students accountable (...should students violate this [dane county public health] order, they will be held accountable through university disciplinary action (including suspension for repeat violations) and/or municipal sanctions such as substantial fines.).

Then why have I been seeing massive amounts of students packed into bars without masks on for the past three months? Why am I watching 20 people pack into a tiny apartment across the street from where I live? Why are the frats and sororities constantly throwing parties? If you were actually going to give out suspensions there would be SO many given out by now. And yes, I could make a report, but I'd have to be making hundred of reports. And it's strange, because you're not stupid. So how can you really think that students won't congregate without masks and social distancing? So if it's not stupidity, then it must be a desire to make money rather than keep students safe, which is scarier.

*And then there's this. "As noted, we have emphasized to all students that they can stay away from Madison and take remote classes if they have health issues or if this is their preference. The fact that our students are returning to Madison in large numbers indicates their desire to be on and near campus."

This sounds to me like "well, these students are paying us millions of dollars to come to our institution, but we'll just put all the responsibility on them to decide whether or not to remain on campus. And if they don't remain on campus, we'll still charge them the same

disgusting amount of money.”

And of course people have a desire to be on campus! But the fact is, we're in a pandemic! You can't really just make decisions off of what young, low risk college students want, you have to think of the public health and safety of everyone.

Also, I have a feeling once everyone returns, we're going to see a spike of cases. And when that happens, are you going to make everything online again? I would prefer transparency rather than bullshit.

I really hope you've read this, and I hope you seriously consider it. It's harsh, but you need to make a change. You're getting paid almost \$600,000, so I don't feel too bad about being honest. I do not support UW-Madison, and when I graduate I won't speak highly of this university. But, I do have a deep desire for the University to become a better place, where people can learn, feel safe, and find community! That's what it's meant to be.

Hoping you make a change,

██████████

P.S. I have some demands, created by Link, and local Madison group that's been leading protests, community building, and housing homeless people. I'll keep sending these to you so they'll be on your mind.

1. Remove the Lincoln statue
2. Remove the Chamberlin Rock
3. Moral- not "smart" restart
4. Fire Matt Kenny
5. Convict Matt Kenny
6. Defund the Police- UW and MPD
7. Abolish the Police
8. Free Yeshua
9. Free Sire
10. Justice for Althea
11. Justice for Alize
12. House every person experiencing homelessness

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Monument Removal
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:15:50 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 7:16 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Monument Removal

The current frenzy by some factions in our country to remove certain monuments of historical figures is ill-considered, reactionary, and very dangerous from the perspective of erasing visible reminders of our history, good or bad. As the Spanish philosopher George Santayana wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

As a Wisconsin Football season ticket holder for the past 29 years, I am writing to inform you that if the statue of Abraham Lincoln is allowed to be removed from the campus, my wife and I will immediately discontinue our support of the Wisconsin football program and indeed will have spent the last dollar we will ever spend in the city of Madison. Moreover, we will become vocal advocates for taking the same actions among our friends and associates, many of whom are Wisconsin season ticket holders.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: New submission from Send Bucky an Email
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:58:04 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:38 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fw: New submission from Send Bucky an Email

From: askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu <web@umark.wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Subject: New submission from Send Bucky an Email

Name

Frances Martin

Email

[REDACTED]

You're a

Visitor

Enter your question below:

I'm sorry to use this email address but I couldn't find another one (or link) that was working. I just read that the student union is demanding you take down that gorgeous statue of Abraham Lincoln. I'm horrified at the indignity of their request. That statue is there for ALL students and not just a select few who think it is "racist." Come on!!! I hope and pray you don't cave to their selfish demand. For goodness sake, he was a president of our country. He couldn't help it because he was white, and I think that's the reason they want it to come down. Please tell them if they don't like the statue that they can pack their bags and go to another college where they can dictate policy! This is not about racism. It is about destroying our American heritage! Antifa and other communist deities are behind it. PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR IT! If you do, they will start these hateful demands at colleges all across the country.

Consent



I understand my information will be used by university staff to contact me.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Ask Bucky](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: New submission from Send Bucky an Email
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:23:44 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu <web@umark.wisc.edu>

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 6:34 PM

To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>

Subject: New submission from Send Bucky an Email

Name

Lynette Cox

Email

[REDACTED]

You're a

Other

Enter your question below:

I am not sure where to direct my comment so I'm looking to you to do that for me. I just watched the news and heard that the campus is considering removing Abraham Lincoln's statue. You are considering doing that because ONE person doesn't think it is appropriate? and she thinks he thought negatively about "slaves"? If he thought negatively about slaves he would not have FREED them now would he? If he did think negatively about them he certainly must have changed his mind right? Why are we allowing the few to dictate what should be removed or destroyed? This is part of America's history and if we don't learn from it we are bound to repeat it. I bet they haven't thought about that! These are the REMINDERS of hard fought battles and hard living and should NEVER BE FORGOTTEN! I implore you NOT to remove this statue.

Consent



I understand my information will be used by university staff to contact me.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Wojtek Zarzycki](#)
Subject: Re: Pick up of Abraham Lincoln Statue
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:18:01 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 10/29/20, 2:34 PM, "Wojtek Zarzycki" <wojtek@emerald-pacific.com> wrote:

Chancellor Blank,

It has come to my attention that the students at your University have voted to remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

[REDACTED], I personally understand what it means to be free, to live in a free country and the grandiose illusion of a socialist utopia.

I would be honored, at my own cost, to pick up and remove this statue from your university and donate it to a town here in [REDACTED] that would provide it with the proper respect that it deserves.

Best regards,
Wojtek Zarzycki
CEO
Emerald Pacific Resources

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [OLIVIA SUSAN BURMEISTER](#)
Subject: Re: Please Guard the Statue of Abraham Lincoln and the Dignity of All
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 8:57:56 PM

Thanks for your message—UW does not intend to remove the statue.

Our position has not changed since this statement in June 2020 from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: OLIVIA SUSAN BURMEISTER <oburmeister@wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 8:10 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Please Guard the Statue of Abraham Lincoln and the Dignity of All

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

As a former undergraduate student of UW-Madison, I write to encourage you to stand by your commitment, published in the Badger Herald on September 29, 2020, not to consider the removal of the statue of Abraham Lincoln from Bascom Hill. I am saddened by the revived petition for its removal, and I hope that you will respond with the courage and conviction that your position demands.

I realize that you receive many contradictory requests from students and that you feel obligated to respond with consideration and compassion. You have received messages from students upset with what you say or demanding that you say more. While it is impossible to please everyone, I hope that you may find peace in pleasing the Lord by speaking His Truth and not by propagating lies from the evil one that cause division among the student body.

I ask you to please consider whether your “Message to our Community” dated May 31, 2020, and your subsequent messages in response to the killing of George Floyd (which was not proven to be racially motivated) contributed to peace or division. In my reading of your “Message to our Community,” I was disturbed by your remarks on privilege and race.

Firstly, your message implies that students seeking an education at UW-Madison are privileged, especially if they are white. The notion of privilege attempts to sentence the accused “privileged” people to self-demotion and entitle the “nonprivileged” to special treatment. If anything, the preferential consideration that minority students, staff, and faculty receive due to the university’s Affirmative Action policy discriminates against whites. Everyone has been granted unique gifts that run much deeper than skin color, and these gifts should be the factors objectively evaluated to determine job placement and admission. Privilege based on skin color is as preposterous as privilege based on education. Education is not a privilege granted by the university. It is a gift from our Creator, and it is a basic human right. It is a gift that compels me to study and to glorify Him.

Secondly, your message expresses solidarity with “Black and Brown students, staff, and faculty” while simultaneously asserting their inability to be dynamic leaders. I specifically address the line: “Each of us – particularly those of us who do not face the daily challenge of living amid inequity and injustice – must contribute to and lead the change that is needed.” Is there a person on this earth who has not faced daily inequity and injustice? Why are white students in a better position to promote justice than anyone else? Are white people inherently oppressors, while Black and Brown people are inherently victims in need of rescuing? It is irresponsible to place blame for injustice on students of a particular race, just as it is insulting to exclude particular races from the cause to restore justice.

Lastly, you indicate that systemic racism must end, but where is it? Has the UW Police Department been unjust to people of minority races? To my knowledge, there is only one systemically racist organization endorsed and supported by the university that destroys the lives of Black and Brown individuals, and that is Planned Parenthood, founded by Margaret Sanger, who drafted eugenics programs for Nazi Germany. The American Journal of Public Health demonstrated that black women had the highest abortion rate at 27.1 per 1,000, while white women had the lowest rate at 10.0 per 1,000. Despite this, the university advertises Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin as women’s health, and it illegally receives fetal tissue of aborted babies from Planned Parenthood in the name of science, when your own Dr. James Thomson believes that ethically sourced pluripotent stem cell lines will produce more medical

advancements than embryonic or fetal cells ever could. One of the main reasons that I unenrolled from UW-Madison is because I could not in good conscience continue to pay tuition at a school that perpetuates illegal transactions with a racist organization that targets minorities and murders babies by the millions.

If you stand behind your message to Black and Brown students, staff, and faculty that “your lives matter,” end UW-Madison’s partnership with racist Planned Parenthood. Do not fuel distrust of the UW Police Department, which is in no way connected to the death of George Floyd. Do not divide the student body based on your perception of privilege or race. Doing so unjustly designates everyone as either an oppressor or victim and unjustly legitimizes the condemnation of great historical figures. Please protect the statue of Abraham Lincoln. Inspired by his example of leadership and courage, use your gifts to protect the lives of all students, staff, and faculty according to their primary identity as children of God.

God Bless,
Olivia Burmeister



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Adam Kindschy](#); [MELISA A PEREZ](#)
Cc: [Matthew Mayrl](#)
Subject: Re: Please KEEP the Lincoln statue!
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:10:35 PM

Thanks!

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Adam Kindschy <adam.kindschy@wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 12:10 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>, MELISA A PEREZ <melisa.perez@wisc.edu>
Cc: Matthew Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Subject: Re: Please KEEP the Lincoln statue!

Sounds good. Thx.

Adam Kindschy
Office of the Chancellor
Cell: 608.213.7294
adam.kindschy@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 12:05 PM
To: Adam Kindschy <adam.kindschy@wisc.edu>, MELISA A PEREZ <melisa.perez@wisc.edu>
Cc: Matt Mayrl <matthew.mayrl@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Please KEEP the Lincoln statue!

Hi—In the event you're responding to paper letter Abe messages, the text below is the approved response that we've used by email.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 8:35 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Please KEEP the Lincoln statue!

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 10:13 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Please KEEP the Lincoln statue!

Dear Chancellor's Office:

I am writing in regards to the recent news regarding some students petitioning the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue. I wholeheartedly find their motion offensive, and wish for the statue to remain on Bascom Hill. Lincoln was a great man who, despite being far from perfect, came to realize that slaves were people too - and what he did for them (the Emancipation Proclamation) was a major event in American history. He is absolutely worth being honored, and removing a historic statue for an American hero would make it so nothing could ever be done to honor anybody ever again. Who wants that? Ergo, I would thank you for keeping the statue.

Sincerely,

Andy Pfeiffer

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:50:54 PM

Please see the statement below from Chancellor Blank:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon. I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 8:29 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism

To whom it may concern,

I saw this video posted on Facebook past night and thought you should be aware.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709951672589807/permalink/2560978230820476/>

It sounds like a group of people plan on tearing down the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill sometime next week. I believe this was filmed either Sunday (6/22) or Monday (6/23), and they reference the statue needing to be taken down within a week or they will take it down (along with anyone hired to guard it).

I have no other info aside from what can be seen in this video. I did also submit this information to the Madison Police Department this morning.

Brian Bieniek

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:37:45 AM

Brian—Thank you for sharing this information.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 8:29 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Possible Lincoln statue vandalism

To whom it may concern,

I saw this video posted on Facebook past night and thought you should be aware.

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I have no other info aside from what can be seen in this video. I did also submit this information to the Madison Police Department this morning.

Brian Bieniek

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Potential Knee Jerk Reaction
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:05:11 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon. I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 11:51 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

It is with great dismay that I read of the potential removal of the Bascom Hill Lincoln statue. I am no huge financial contributor to the UW. \$100 here \$200 there, WAA, Journalism and season football ticket holder since 1990 (and attendee since 1970). What I see happening (and what has happened) politically in Madison appalls me (and yes I did grow up in the '60s and '70s [REDACTED]).

If this continues, what little money I may leave when I depart will not go to the UW. I hate even saying this in these 'cancel culture' times but Simone must get their head screwed on straight.

Thank you.
Go Badgers!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone Please do not mistake my brevity for curtness.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: President Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:15:31 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 7:28 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: President Lincoln Statue

Chancellor Blank,

I am writing to urge you to protect the statue of President Lincoln on your campus. I have watched the destruction of statues or the threats/demands to remove them. Tonight I came across articles about the President Lincoln statue possibly being removed on your campus. This is the first letter I have written about these removals/destruction of statues. I think enough is enough and there now needs to be a movement to make a stand that statues like these will be preserved. I say this because over the last few weeks we are seeing things run amok. What are we really saying when we cave in and statues like President Lincoln are removed? I respectfully request that you help bring sanity to so much of what is going on. The line must be drawn somewhere, and President Lincoln must be preserved on your campus. I look to the good people of Wisconsin to be clear minded and to step up to do what is right.

Respectfully,

Jake Rhoades



Teacher

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: thomas0408@sbcglobal.net; norman.sannes@gmail.com; wtm2@chorus.net
Subject: Re: Protection of Lincoln Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 6:37:32 PM

Good God! What are you people thinking? "Systemic" racism? Please give me an example. Clearly money and fear of being labeled racist is driving your stand on protecting our history, its values, and our very core.

Please work on a better response to your alumni.

Rich Roberts

-----Original Message-----

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
To: Rich Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Fri, Jun 26, 2020 6:15 pm
Subject: Re: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Rich Roberts <ouoldstone@aol.com>
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 4:25 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>,
[REDACTED]
Subject: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I am an alumnus of UW Madison and have fond memories of my many visits to Bascom Hill to attend my classes. The Abraham Lincoln statue was always a pleasant and inspirational representation of our country's greatness.

Please ensure Lincoln's statue and its legacy will be closely guarded around the clock by UW Police. We have an uncontrolled group of thugs who know no bounds to their destruction of property, requiring the full protection of our law enforcement.

Thank you,

Rich Roberts
BS 1968
MS 1969

From: [Marc Lovicott](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Protection of Lincoln Statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 3:03:14 PM

I'll reply to him and just let him know that UWPD is involved and we have a plan in place. Maybe that will deter him from showing up. The last thing we need is vigilantes getting involved...



MARC LOVICOTT | UW-Madison Police Department
Director of Communications | Public Information Officer
1429 Monroe Street | Madison, WI 53711
O: (608) 263-2333 | C: (608) 417-9996 | marc.lovicott@wisc.edu

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Marc Lovicott <marc.lovicott@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Just a heads up—not sure if this guy intends to show up.
John

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Rich Roberts [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 2:58 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Cc: "mayor@cityofmadison.com" <mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Please send this email to local alumni. I request round-the-clock protection of the Lincoln statue by the presence of alumni at all times. Let's schedule a one-hour period for each small group of alumni. I am willing to take any hour of the day or night.

Can do? By the weekend, July 4?

Until you start, I will take the time of 5:00 to 6:00 PM today, July 1st.

Rich Roberts
Class of 1968
BS, MS Engineering



-----Original Message-----

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
To: Rich Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Fri, Jun 26, 2020 6:15 pm
Subject: Re: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Rich Roberts [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 4:25 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>,
[REDACTED]

Subject: Protection of Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Blank,

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Please ensure Lincoln's statue and its legacy will be closely guarded around the clock by UW Police. We have an uncontrolled group of thugs who know no bounds to their destruction of property, requiring the full protection of our law enforcement.

Thank you,

Rich Roberts
BS 1968
MS 1969

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Quote on Lincoln for statue removal story
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:39:27 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 11:51 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Quote on Lincoln for statue removal story

Mrs. Blank,

I recently read a quote from you in an article in the Wisconsin State Journal about students calling for the [removal of the Lincoln statue](#) on the UW-Madison campus. I just wanted to take a minute to write to you to thank you for your courage in being willing to defend Lincoln and his legacy. It's very easy to find fault with leaders from the past. That doesn't mean that we should forget them entirely, though, nor forget all of the wonderful things they did do. The fact that they accomplished so much without being perfect speaks even more about how great many of these people were.

Thank you for your support for remembering and learning from our past!

Sincerely,
Scott Slaugh

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [John Dawson](#)
Subject: Re: REMOVING A BOULDER
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:11:35 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

chancellor@wisc.edu

From: John Dawson <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:45 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: REMOVING A BOULDER

BECKY,

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? WHAT'S NEXT FOR THESE MORONS BECKY, A VOLUME A 'AIR' SURROUNDING SOME OFFICE OR BUILDING?

SOLUTION (no charge) JUST EXPEL THESE BLACK LUNATIC THUGS. COM'ON YOU KNOW THEY'D RATHER BE IN PORTLAND OR SEATTLE MAKING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND THROWING THEIR URINE AT POLICE OFFICERS.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Removal of Abraham Lincoln statue
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:18:09 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:02 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Removal of Abraham Lincoln statue

See an article that your student government voted to remove a statue of Abraham Lincoln

because it is racist and a sign of white supremacy. You teach any American history at your university?

The leftist nutcases run your insane asylum. Just another example of how over the years many college degrees have become less relevant.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Removal of Lincoln Statue
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 10:19:37 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 10:17 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Removal of Lincoln Statue

Dear Chancellor Bank

It has come to my attention just this morning that student organizations on campus have voted to

remove the Lincoln Statue at the top of Bascom Hill and I find this very concerning. Further reading has indicated that the funding of the statue may be problematic with a complicated history. History is often complicated but Lincoln himself remains one of our nation's finest Presidents. History demands balance in our view of the past. It is completely inappropriate to view history with the evolving morality of each generation. History needs to be viewed within the context of the laws and morality of the time and the process of change. Certainly one would hope that if we all become vegans in our ongoing effort to reduce climate change and not harm animals, that in 100 years we would not destroy the legacy of Martin Luther King because he perhaps liked to eat hamburgers which would be considered morally repugnant in that future.

I've had the pleasure of having my life propelled forward as have ever one of my 4 siblings by the Wisconsin Idea and especially by the significant help the State of Wisconsin provided by its significant investments in higher education in the 70's allowing me and my family to attend this prestigious University at low in state rates. Thank You Wisconsin! I consider myself a progressive in the Wisconsin tradition.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As a now retired alumni of UW Madison having earned a BS degree in History in 1975 and then a BSEE in 1979, I find myself very concerned about the attack on the Lincoln statue that has long existed on Bascom Hill. To me, it would be appropriate for some language or sign perhaps with a website that our modern phones could click on to receive information on why the funding of the statue has become problematic. But the forced removal of the statue along attacks on President Lincoln would be an assault on my family members who fought to preserve the union and free the slaves from bondage. I am seriously reconsidering whether I would continue my support for the UW or provide a more substantial gift in my legacy, if President Lincoln's statue were removed from Bascom Hill.

Yours Truly

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Remove Abraham Lincoln
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:49:09 AM

Thanks for sharing your views—we will pass your message to Chancellor Blank directly. Below is her view of the situation:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 5:22 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Remove Abraham Lincoln

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and this semester will be my first at the University.
All I would like to say is that I would be much prouder and more comfortable attending this school
if the statue of Abraham Lincoln, who held mass executions of the Native peoples of America, was removed
from campus. Acknowledging that the University sits on Native land means nothing when a murderer of Native
Americans sits atop Bascom Hill. I also believe that the Chamberlain rock should be removed, which existence
has hurt black students attending or wanting to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Remove Lincoln
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:19:13 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 5:30 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Remove Lincoln

Chancellor Blank,

The statements you have made about the Lincoln statute are nothing short of white supremacist ideology. We are an institute of learning and we do that in every discipline without statutes.

To say that we should leave Lincoln but learn his complicated past is to say that we do not care about the violence he, and this institute, has perpetrated on people of color.

If you value your students of color, and the efficacy of your white students, you will remove the statue of Lincoln.

Best,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the sender's name.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Removing Lincoln statue from Bascom Hill
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:40:42 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/29/20, 6:28 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Please do not even consider the removal of the statue of Abraham Lincoln.
I come from a long line of Badgers. I graduated from UW in 1972, my husband graduated in 1969, masters in 1971. Son and daughter-in-law in 2003, daughter in 2005.

While at UW, I lived through black students riots, Viet Nam protests and the bombing of Sterling Hall.

But this request is over the top.

Margaret Moore Saewert
BA 1972

Sent from my iPad

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Removing statue of Abraham Lincoln
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:26:57 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 3:23 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Removing statue of Abraham Lincoln

To whom it may concern:

How disappointing to hear that you are considering removing a statue of Abraham Lincoln because the very uneducated 'children' at your school don't think he was perfect. No, he was just a man and as a man, he made mistakes. But he also did some truly amazing things and paid the ultimate price of his life because he felt that it was important to keep this nation together so that the poorly educated, highly pampered and overly indulged children of today could then decide that he wasn't good enough. Please spare all of us the charade of replacing the statue. Just leave a wide open space that reflects the very large amount of empty space that can be found in the heads of a large portion of the population of many college students in this country today. How tiresome and completely misguided. No matter how you spin it (and you will), we all see it and you for what you are.

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

From: [Meg Lenz](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Rock
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 10:13:39 AM

Why are students in charge????? It's everyone's university. It's public. Stop this nonsense

Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

> On Nov 20, 2020, at 9:30 AM, Meg Lenz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Do what is right. Keep the rock where it is

>

> It's part of history

>

> Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

>

>> On Nov 20, 2020, at 8:13 AM, Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

>>

>> Thank you for your message.

>>

>> Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

>>

>> The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision.

>> Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars.

>> The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

>>

>> It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following

>> removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

>>

>> We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

>>

>>

>> Office of the Chancellor

>> University of Wisconsin-Madison

>> chancellor@wisc.edu

>>

>>

>> On 11/20/20, 6:55 AM, "Meg Lenz" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>

>> You're actually getting rid of the rock on observatory drive

>>

>> So sad

>>

>> So sad to be a badger

>>

>>

>> Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

>>

From: [Meg Lenz](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Rock
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 10:05:56 AM

And did you bother to ask what the alums thought about this...ya didn't think so

Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

> On Nov 20, 2020, at 9:30 AM, Meg Lenz <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Do what is right. Keep the rock where it is

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>> Office of the Chancellor

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>> chancellor@wisc.edu

>>

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>>

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>>

>> Sent from Meg Lenz's iPhone XR

>>

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Solidarity with the Black Student Union
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020 9:21:49 AM

Thank you for your commitment to racial justice and equity in our community. This message responds to your recent email about policing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In recent days, [Chancellor Blank](#) and [Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Patrick Sims](#) as well as many other campus leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to confront racism. We [continue to document the concrete actions](#) we are taking to build a more diverse and inclusive university.

As the nation grieves the killing of George Floyd, we have encouraged our students, faculty and staff to speak up and engage in peaceful activism that drives towards systemic change. And as leaders on our campus, we are also pausing and listening to those who confront racism on a daily basis.

We want to address your concerns about UWPD and our relationship with Madison Police Department (MPD). Neither the university nor UWPD are engaged in formal agreements or payments to the City of Madison for police services.

You also mention training. UWPD officers receive initial and ongoing training in implicit bias, fair and impartial policing, procedural justice, ethics, and a host of community policing related training topics. The department was also the first in Wisconsin to require all officers to receive specialized de-escalation training. It is one of the only departments in Wisconsin to employ a [director of recruitment, diversity and inclusion](#), while also [disclosing information about specialized police equipment](#).

We agree that diversity among our UW faculty is important. We have made major commitments to enhance recruiting and additional resources for under-represented faculty at UW. In particular, campus has been actively working to diversity its faculty through its [Target of Opportunity recruiting program](#) which provides strong financial incentives for departments to actively seek to hire faculty from under-represented groups. In the two years this program has been in place, we have hired 30 faculty in nearly every school and college.

We are also conducting training opportunities for employees to be anti-racist allies through our [Inclusion@UW](#) and [Learning Communities for Institutional Change and Excellence](#) programs. We also have a number of educational programs for all students through the [Multicultural Student Center](#).

We are well aware that there is always more to be done. New students, faculty and staff are constantly arriving on our campus, and the work of creating a diverse and inclusion community is never done. As a predominantly white institution in a predominantly white state, our efforts have to be even greater than those in other places.

Thank you for reaching out to us and being a partner in driving change on campus, in Dane County and beyond.

Chancellor Rebecca Blank
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Lori Reesor
Vice Chancellor for University Relations Charles Hoslet
Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Patrick Sims

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 10:57 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Solidarity with the Black Student Union

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Statue Support
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:29:06 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 1:50 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Statue Support

Good afternoon,

[REDACTED] and I wanted to comment on the statue of Abraham Lincoln. I realize I have no say in the matter and it's not as though this is up for referendum, but I applaud the chancellor for her nuance and thought regarding the statue. History is not perfect and though other statues may be suited to toppling, I am perplexed others think Lincoln is one of them. He is one of our most revered historical figures and for all the right reasons. If we tear down a statue of him, we must tear down statues of everyone. He was an imperfect man from a different era, but surely the scales of history weigh heavily toward the positive side when it comes to Lincoln's contributions. I am glad to see the chancellor's foresight regarding this manner.

Thank you,

Paul Huset

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Statue of Abraham Lincoln on Bascom Hill
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:05:44 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: Jon Coulter <joncoulter@protonmail.com>
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 9:27 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Statue of Abraham Lincoln on Bascom Hill

Chancellor Blank,

I am a UW-Madison alumni (MBA '86) [REDACTED]. In addition, my son Jack is currently a full-time student at UW-Madison.

I strongly oppose removing the statue of Abraham Lincoln currently located on Bascom Hill s and encourage you to remain steadfast and resolute in your position regarding the same.

Stay strong!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Casey Murdock](#)
Subject: Re: Statue of Abraham Lincoln
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:48:11 PM

Senator Murdock,
Thanks for reaching out. UW-Madison supports the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus and intends to keep it in its current place. We appreciate your support for our position.

Please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below.

John Lucas
University Communications

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Casey Murdock <Casey.Murdock@oksenate.gov>

Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 1:32 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Statue of Abraham Lincoln

My name is Senator Casey Murdock and I have read about various statues being removed lately. I am saddened to hear about the call for the statue of Lincoln to be removed from the University of Wisconsin. I have looked into private funding for the removal and relocation of such statues to Oklahoma. Some will go in museums and others in parks etc. They would be labeled as "on loan from..". Oklahoma would be happy to house any unwanted statues. Please reach out to me if this is something you would be interested in. Thank you

SENATOR CASEY MURDOCK

DISTRICT 27
2300 N LINCOLN BLVD ROOM 525
OFFICE: 405.521.5626
CELL: 505.803.0690

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [kevin tarbell](#)
Subject: Re: Statue of Lincoln
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:01:33 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 7/1/20, 2:14 PM, "kevin tarbell" < > wrote:

Has your University lost it mind. Please educate these fools of the roll of Abraham Lincoln in freeing slaves. This is not acceptable taking down his statue is sad braking my heart that our young want to destroy all our history.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Tom Marx](#)
Subject: Re: Statue
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:07:12 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/25/20, 10:16 PM, "Tom Marx" [REDACTED] > wrote:

I am a graduate of the business school and I want to go on the record as being in favor of keeping the statue of President Lincoln and other historical monuments.

Tom Marx

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Statue
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:28:26 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 at 3:27 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Statue

As a past parent of a UW-Madison student, and a citizen of Wisconsin, I would URGE you to NOT remove the statue of Abraham Lincoln! Lincoln fought for the EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE. He was one of the greatest abolitionists of our time, and gave his life for the freedom of slaves. Please DO NOT REMOVE THIS STATUE!

A very concerned citizen of Wisconsin,

--

[Linda Runingen](#)



From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

Thanks to the group we've prepared a statement on this issue for you.

An educational institution where we learn to be and to enlighten. We are committed to the education of our students and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding in the human condition. In pursuing our mission we have deeply engaged and we will continue to engage our campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the larger community.

We are committed to the safety of our campus. We will continue to work with you to ensure that we have the best possible environment for our students and faculty. We will continue to work with you to ensure that we have the best possible environment for our students and faculty.

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Dr. [redacted]
University of Wisconsin-Madison
[redacted]

Re: [redacted]

Date: [redacted]

To: [redacted]

Subject: [redacted]

M. [redacted]
[redacted]

Dear M. [redacted]

I am writing to you to express my appreciation for your support of keeping the memory of Abraham Lincoln alive at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you!

Sincerely,
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Student Government votes to remove Lincoln statue
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 5:31:48 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 11/1/20, 8:00 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Honorable Chancellor,

I have been a long time donor as an Alumni.

My donations are done. Only shutting off the money flow causes University leadership to listen.

Best of success getting those who chose to rewrite history rather than learn from history to support your agenda.

Explore a wilderness area. Discover life away from the grid.

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Student protest and Lincoln statue
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:05:53 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

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As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11:25 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Student protest and Lincoln statue

Dear Chancellor,

It will not reflect well on your institution (beyond the screaming radicals) to remove a statue of Lincoln on your campus. There is a time when the parents in the room need to tell the children "NO" and this would be it.

Michael Gerber

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Thank you
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:38:41 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 4:30 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Thank you

Chancellor,

I applaud you for standing firm on the subject of the Lincoln statue on campus, coming out with a statement that it will not be removed.

I'm sure that you are familiar with the statement "those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it". This is exactly why the statue should remain - to hold history before us so we don't repeat it.

Too many young people today have not learned history adequately in middle/high school; for a small group of people to demand the statue be removed proves the point. I would highly encourage you if you don't already do so to make sure all students at Madison have at least a basic understanding of history so things like this don't happen in the future.

Again, thank you for not giving in to those who expect perfection out of our leaders, past and present, an impossible standard.

Susan Slaber

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [David Passman](#)
Subject: Re: The Lincoln Statue
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:40:02 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/30/20, 4:39 PM, "David Passman" <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Chancellor Blank is absolutely correct about why the Abraham Lincoln statue must remain, and how his legacy should be considered and taught.

To allow the removal of that statue will subject the University to ridicule throughout and beyond this nation, and will energize Trump supporters like nothing else.

David L. Passman

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: The Statue of Abraham Lincoln Should Not Be Removed or Moved!!!!
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:32:23 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, July 4, 2020 at 1:39 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: The Statue of Abraham Lincoln Should Not Be Removed or Moved!!!!

Dear Chancellor Blank,

Today, on the 4th of July, the 244th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I feel that I must write to you regarding a disturbing piece of news.

[REDACTED] We both continued our education at the University of Illinois/Urbana, earning Ph.D. degrees in those same fields. We spent our entire careers as research scientists in both academics and industry. I received a lifetime membership in the Wisconsin Alumni Association as a graduation present from my parents and we have made regular donations to the UW over the years because we are proud of our alma mater and the education that we earned.

[REDACTED] started our undergraduate careers at the UW in September 1969 and were on campus during some of the most turbulent times in the history of the university and our nation, including demonstrations and protests against the Vietnam War, among other "causes." We lived through the TA strike and the bombing of Sterling Hall, as well as the shootings at Kent State University, all in 1970.

I am very disappointed in and distressed by the behavior of the anarchist organizations that are demanding the removal of and are destroying statues all over our nation. Most of these people don't even know anything about the people represented by the statues. They don't take the time to discover the background or reason these statues were erected. Instead, they are only sheep following tyrannical people who just want to destroy our history because they are anti-US and all that our great nation stands for.

I cannot believe that people are now demanding the removal of the statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of Bascom Hall. Abraham Lincoln, of all people! Who would have thought that the president who led the United States during the tragedy of the Civil War, emancipated the slaves, and was assassinated because of his actions would be attacked like this. I sincerely hope that no one in the UW administration or the Wisconsin state government would even entertain a thought of removing or moving this statue.

The anti-American organizations that make these demands will never be satisfied by any of the actions they are demanding. They only want to tear down the fabric of our great nation and erase all of our history. The biggest problem is that most of these people grew up during a time when everyone was given a medal, whether they won the event or not. They have never been taught that life isn't always fair and you can't always get what you want. They also believe that their point of view is the only correct one and that other people don't have a right to an opinion. They have not been properly educated in U.S., ancient, or world histories and don't understand that what happened in the past SHOULD NOT be judged by current standards. People and societies change with time; not always for the better.

These hooligans don't really want to make things more fair and equitable. They don't really care about diversity or equal opportunity. The anarchists only want to take away what others have worked hard to earn for themselves. They make up excuses

to account for their lack of achievement, not recognizing that other people had to work very hard to meet their goals and weren't just handed success on a platter. These are the same people who want all their student loans forgiven, free health insurance, and a guaranteed income. What happened to the principles on which this nation was built—independence and self-sufficiency? It is up to every American to stand up to these hoodlums and teach them that they cannot get away with their destructive actions.

Do not satisfy the demands of these groups to remove Abraham Lincoln from Bascom Hill or anything else they want. These loudmouth bullies should not be allowed to silence those of us who know what Abraham Lincoln stood for and all that he did to end slavery and reunite the United States. No human is perfect, but this man is one of the best examples of someone who worked hard for his achievements and did what he knew was right for our nation.

If the statue of Abraham Lincoln is removed, moved to another location, or changed in any way, I will no longer respect or provide financial support to the UW and its affiliated organizations. This is my way of making my voice heard and I doubt if I am the only one who feels this way.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: The immigrant from Norway
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 2:00:34 PM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 12:20 PM
To: ASM Diverse Engagement Coordinator <dec@asm.wisc.edu>
Cc: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Fwd: The immigrant from Norway

I learned from WW2 veterans from 1946 to 1950. If the

Germans had won, there would be no Lincoln statue to fight about.

From: [REDACTED]
To: dec@asm.wisc.edu
Sent: 11/3/2020 11:14:09 AM Mountain Standard Time
Subject: Fwd: The immigrant from Norway

I forgot to mention. I have a B. S. in Chemical Engineering, date August 1950, upon completion of an intense summer lab course that I should have completed a year sooner. I was in a class that had loads of veterans from WW2. We were hard working students and we knew nothing about the Lincoln statue or student government.

I went to work making powerful bombs. On the train out west there were loads of troops who were on a one-way trip to Korea. I suppose there is a statue of the general somewhere but so far your buddies have missed it.

Robert Leyse

From: [REDACTED]
To: dec@asm.wisc.edu
Sent: 11/3/2020 10:23:07 AM Mountain Standard Time
Subject: The immigrant from Norway

So, Lincoln will be replaced with the statue that the gang of protesters destroyed?

Robert Leyse, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: UW Madison rock removal
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:08:26 PM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 1:23 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: UW Madison rock removal

Hello,

I send my son and pay a substantial amount in both tuition and WI taxes and I believe the level of absurdity is off the charts re: the 35K-75K to remove a boulder.

Clearly there is a lack of common sense in Madison that is running rampant at the UW campus.

Wake up, your school is fast losing its reputation.



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: UW alum - Abe Lincoln statue
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2020 10:20:52 AM

Thanks for your message. UW does not intend to remove the statue and the student government vote is not binding. Our position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:24 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: UW alum - Abe Lincoln statue

As an alumni (class of 2002) of UW-Madison, I find it embarrassing that the student government at my former school know so little about history that they would vote to remove our iconic statue of Abraham Lincoln. Please educate these kids and squash this silly idea.

https://jonathanturley.org/2020/10/30/not-pro-back-wisconsin-students-unanimously-vote-to-remove-lincoln-statue-as-racist/amp/?__twitter_impression=true

If this piece of history is removed, you will lose more support than you realize.

Dusty Eddy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: RogerHauck@house.mi.gov; MI04JMima@mail.house.gov
Subject: Re: University of Wisconsin students say Abraham Lincoln statue at Madison campus must come down
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:23:32 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 8:31 AM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Cc: "RogerHauck@house.mi.gov" <RogerHauck@house.mi.gov>,
"MI04JMima@mail.house.gov" <MI04JMima@mail.house.gov>

Subject: University of Wisconsin students say Abraham Lincoln statue at Madison campus must come down

Dear Chancellor,

A news article reports "University of Wisconsin students say Abraham Lincoln statue at Madison campus must come down"

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/university-of-wisconsin-students-say-abraham-lincoln-statue-at-madison-campus-must-come-down>

Perhaps it is time to defund universities that allow the destruction of history?

Dr. Robert Armstead

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: Why did you just spent \$70k to remove a rock?
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:09:30 PM

It is heartening to hear Chancellor Blank has not approved this action yet. There are countless better ways to spend such funds, many of which could directly support students. I encourage you to lead the way to a wiser use of funds.

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 19, 2020, 11:40 AM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision.

Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars.

The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following

removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 11:24 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: Why did you just spent \$70k to remove a rock?

Hello Chancellor Blank,

My name is David Ryan, I am an alumnus of UW Madison. I've recently read of your decision to spend \$70,000 to remove a rock from campus because one time decades ago it was called an ugly name that was commonly used at the time for big rocks.

I understand that you must be pulled in many directions every day, and that this was perhaps done to help some students feel heard and safe on campus. But I am completely dumbfounded by how a sensible grown up in your position could make this decision. Isn't this obviously a waste of money and resources at a time when the university is facing enormous real challenges?

This also makes me very nervous that next you will give into the silly demands to remove our statue of Abraham Lincoln. Please do not remove our statue.

Our university asks me to donate money constantly. Can you please explain to me why you chose to spend \$70,000 to remove a rock?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] UW Madison student government passes resolution supporting removal of Lincoln statue | The College Fix
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:49:41 PM

Thanks for your message-- UW-Madison has no plans to move the Lincoln Statue.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 10/9/20, 2:36 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Ms. Blank, The liberal socialist and communist professors at UW have managed to teach all students that socialism and communism is wonderful and America is terrible. If the Lincoln statue is removed UW will never receive another dime from this Bascom Hill Member. [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Thomas Gerger" <gergert@stifel.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 2:17:04 PM
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] UW Madison student government passes resolution supporting removal of Lincoln statue | The College Fix

Thomas J. Gerger
Senior Vice President/Investments

Stifel Nicolaus
18000 W Sarah Lane
Suite 180
Brookfield WI 53045
Ph 262-794-1000
Fax 262-794-0125
Toll Free 877-794-0600

What a bunch of privileged a-hole punks. Will speak volumes about UW if they give in to this bs.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 9, 2020, at 12:31 PM, Gerger, Thomas <gergert@stifel.com> wrote:
>
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>
>
>
>
> <https://www.thecollegefix.com/uw-madison-student-government-passes-resolution-supporting-removal-of-lincoln-statue/>

>
> This message, and any of its attachments, is for the intended recipient(s) only, and it may contain information

that is privileged, confidential, and/or proprietary and subject to important terms and conditions available at <http://www.stifel.com/disclosures/emaildisclaimers/>. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete this message and immediately notify the sender. No confidentiality, privilege, or property rights are waived or lost by any errors in transmission.

>

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: "Chamberlin Rock"
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 7:47:48 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision. Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars. The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 11:03 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: "Chamberlin Rock"

In 1969, UC Berkeley, Reagan was the Governor of California,
"ALL OF IT BEGAN THE FIRST TIME SOME OF YOU WHO KNOW BETTER AND ARE OLD ENOUGH TO
KNOW BETTER, LET YOUNG PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE LAWS THEY
WOULD OBEY AS LONG AS THEY WERE DOING IT IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL PROTEST!"

IS YOUR FEAR OF THE WORD "RACIST" STRONGER THAN PROVIDING HONEST EDUCATION?
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!
HAS ANYONE GIVEN THE ROCK AN OPPORTUNITY TO APOLOGIZE?
THIS IS HOW ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS THE REASON FOR REMOVING THE ROCK!

MELISSA LEE

CONCERNED AMERICAN CITIZEN

WITH ONE QUESTION: WHEN DID FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, HONEST EDUCATION, AND FEAR OF A
WORD TOOK OVER HIGHER EDUCATION?

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: "Racist Rock"
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 7:48:24 AM

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

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We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6:03 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: "Racist Rock"

Dear Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

Attached are my personal emailed comments about removal of "Chamberlain's Rock" from the Madison campus. As an old time "lefty" (1972 graduate), I am appalled that a 1925 newspaper

article that incorrectly used a now completely obsolete and avoided term will lead to loss of an inspirational feature on the campus. Growing up in little Port Washington, WI, I bought Chamberlain's old multivolume "Geology of Wisconsin" and this was part of my discovery of a career in geology and paleontology.

From a "lefty," there are limits,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:32 PM
To: bsinger@geol.edu
Cc: 'Brown, Phil' <pbrown@geology.wisc.edu>; 'Valley, John' <valley@geology.wisc.edu>
Subject: FW: Racist Rock

Dear Brad et al.,

I read the nonsense on Chamberlain's Rock on RT—Russian Television. Is this true?. Hopefully Geosciences and the university administration addressed the "issue." As a geology grad (1972) and probably the most left wing student in the department then, this is absurd, and might have been met with some focused PR and maybe a legal counter. You defend what is completely innocent and, in what seems like a charged word, is part of a heritage that is inspirational for every single person of every community.

Attached are personal thoughts sent to people about the "controversy," particularly as the old 1925 newspaper account used an incorrect term for a large whitish-colored rock not largely underwater.

By allowing this, I don't ever see myself even thinking of making donations to a department and a university that treated me very, very kindly; gave a full scholarship; and had a talented faculty who served as mentors.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:33 PM
To:

Ahh, folks,

A forwarded email sent from a retired colleague. In all my time at UW, I and all the other lefties would never have thought that Chamberlain's Rock was "racist." As I always say, the right wing and

what are now called “lefties” (really QANon-type conspiracy types in their way) work together to end anything constructive—like end, not reform, mental health programs as they are too expensive (right wing) and need to bring these people into the “community” (lefties). So we have many expense-free homeless! Win-win.

Now the Trumpian right wing and conspiratorial “lefties” can actually find satisfaction in removing a tribute to science and to a scientist who was the UW President and wrote the four volume Geology of Wisconsin in the late 1800s and turn of the century.

The news is, of course, distributed by RT, as usual, Russian TV, the new supporter of Glen Greenwald and somehow Maduro as somehow interested in his country, not just an old fashioned. corrupt caudillo.

And all this goes back to a 1925 article that called it a n-----head? But fact is, that this completely obsolete and idiotic term was once used for dark rocks that were largely submerged in water. Hm, Chamberlain’s Rock is light colored granite and was obtained, I think, from a glacial deposit. So even the 1925 article was incorrect, but good ‘nough. And it is good ‘nough for RT to accuse the heroic “White Helmets” who rescue people in Syria as being Assad/al’ Queda agents.

Who can care any more?



From: Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:02 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Racist Rock

<https://www.rt.com/usa/507220-wisconsin-university-remove-boulder/>

Image removed by sender.



[‘Symbol of racism’:
Wisconsin university to
remove BOULDER from
campus over 1925 local
newspaper slur](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is planning to somehow remove a 70-ton boulder from its campus because a word once used to describe it in the 1920s was a racial slur.

www.rt.com

Confidentiality Notice

This email including all attachments is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is protected from disclosure under State and/or Federal law. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this communication in error and delete this email from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: concern
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:39:59 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 10:38 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: concern

Hello!

I understand there is talk of removing (gasp!) the statue of Lincoln from the hill. I am so unhappy that it has come to this.

I have a long history with Wisconsin. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I really think, in light of Camp Randall, the Union and all the other places remembering the right side of the Civil War, that we should keep Old Abe right where he is: Watching over all the good, the bad and the messy. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Nancy Dickens

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Noel Ferguson](#)
Subject: Re: enough is enough
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:07:03 PM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

On 6/26/20, 12:41 AM, "Noel Ferguson" <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:

Do not let these ignorant young people succeed in removing Lincoln from Bascom Hill. We need required courses in U.S. History and especially Civil War History. They have a lot to learn and their outrageous demands should not be tolerated. Noël Ferguson, UW '70.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: feedback
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:06:42 PM

Thank you for your response.
I find the suggestion to remove his statue simply appalling.
The man gave his life, in part for freeing slaves.
One of the greatest Presidents of all time being tarnished this way is shameful.
rick modesitt

In a message dated 7/7/2020 10:03:41 PM Eastern Standard Time, chancellor@wisc.edu writes:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 5:26 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: feedback

July 7 2020

University of Wisconsin
Of Madison
Office of the Chancellor
702 West Johnson Street
Madison WI 53715

Dear Chancellor:

I am writing to you regarding the most recent absurd movement taking place on a college campus. In this particular case, the call for the removal of a stature of Abraham Lincoln.

Every day we are seeing or hearing of some new offensive statue. We have seen vandalism and destruction of valuable artifacts at multiple locations across the country.....criminal offenses I might also remind you.

I am beginning to think that the current problems across our nation are actually originating on liberal college campuses. We see if over and over with left wing professors initiating and indoctrinating students with ultra liberal agendas.

Now this.....an effort to remove a statue of a President who ended slavery. A man who took a bullet to the head because of his positions.

I am angry. I am fed up. This madness needs to stop. To allow for mob rule on a college campus and to allow for the destruction of a historical monument is simply wrong!

I hope the University of Wisconsin will do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Rick Modesitt

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re: hi...Chancellor
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 5:30:47 PM

Very good.... the statue is just a tool to gain control, it has NOTHING to do with learning, or a distraction to learning.. If this statue was so offensive why would anyone go to U of W. why would this black student pick U of W, and 6 months ago if you asked him about the lincoln statue he would of praised it... Tell that to this moron, who is self serving and looking for attention. Of coarse the U of W is a great school and is not in any way racist or ever has been. No one would of thought of that 3 months ago or 30 years ago. Its just a grab at attention by someone with nothing better to do. Tell that group that. If you need alumni to stand behind you, white and black students im sure you can find 10000 of them..... Schools are a choice like everything else in life, If you dont like it, find another spot that makes you happy..... You cant make everyone happy, the sooner millennials or whatever they are called learn that the better they will be.

In a message dated 7/2/2020 5:22:29 PM Central Standard Time, chancellor@wisc.edu writes:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 5:04 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: hi...Chancellor

I didnt go to U of W. but i know many who did and who are loyal alumni. and i have been to your campus many many times..... I just read that some idiot wants to take down the lincoln statue... tell that monster to go to a different school if that statue offends him. who in the heck does he think he is to demand something like that.... I hope you do not listen to or cave into that nonsense. that statue is bothering no body and that organizer from the black club is a racist himself... Tell him to go to a different school with NO statues if that is so distracting to his learning... give me a break. someone take a stand for petes sake, that statue is just "there" it doesnt harm anyone...

thats my vote....

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: please stand firm
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:01:40 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 10:07 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: please stand firm

President Lincoln was one of our greatest presidents to ever occupy the White House.

Removing his statue because a few vocal students are making demands would do his legacy an incredible injustice.

Please do not give in to the mob - and if you do, please erase all other statues and portraits on your campus because surely every such person of distinction has done something sinful or wrong in their past and thereby must have offended someone. I wouldn't be surprised if the mob would find offense with Jesus Christ himself, despite him walking the earth for 30+ years and never committing a single sin.

They say common sense isn't so common; I hope you don't prove that right in your decision regarding President Lincoln.

Sincerely,

Michael Martinez



From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
To: [Ask Bucky](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: university on stolen land
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:22:53 AM

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

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Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 3:55 PM

To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>

Subject: Fw: university on stolen land

More Abe feedback.

Thanks,
Sarah

From: ROBERT ALIANO [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 6:53 AM

To: Ask Bucky <askbucky@uwmad.wisc.edu>

Subject: university on stolen land

Your students want to remove a Lincoln statue because the university is built on stolen land. Removing just a statue will not correct the oppression committed by European imperialists against the indigenous people. Lincoln didn't steal the land, the university did.

You need to relocate the entire university and give back the land for free to the original owners. You are illegal squatters on stolen land. Shame on you.

If you are not willing to relinquish the land immediately then you are a bunch of hypocrites and racists who are trying to conceal your sins by blaming it on Dishonest Abe.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re:
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:47:12 AM

Let us look at the history of this infamous rock. It was referred to an offensive name in a newspaper article in 1925. Then, it is unclear if or for how long the boulder was called that racist name, the Journal said, adding that the term itself appeared to fade from common usage by the 1950s. In addition, the paper said university historians identified the news story as the only known instance of the offensive term being used. So for over 70 years, this name was not mentioned or spoken. Just how much time was wasted to look for something to be offended by, such as an insignificant rock? I find this situation as something that someone with absolutely nothing to do than look for something to be offended by. What is even worse, is that a school of higher learning would follow up and attach the same offensiveness to it. This whole matter shows that there has not been one iota of common sense used in dealing with it. Unfortunately, we are dealing with a Liberal run University and it is a proven fact that democrats and liberals have NO common sense but are willing to cave to MOB MENTALITY at the slightest hint of any insignificant outrage over anything. This train of thought destroys any creditability you have as an Institution.

In a message dated 11/20/2020 8:48:01 AM Eastern Standard Time, chancellor@wisc.edu writes:

Thank you for your message.

Since summer, Chancellor Blank and other campus leaders have been engaged in discussion with students about Chamberlin Rock. The students' concerns center on the racist term that has been used to describe the rock, as documented in a 1925 newspaper article. Chancellor Blank asked the Campus Planning Committee, the shared governance group that advises on campus commemorative objects, to consider a request to remove the rock.

The committee met last week and heard input from a number of campus and community members, including the leaders of the Wisconsin Black Student Union and the Wunk Sheek student group and a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The committee recommended removing the rock. That recommendation will be forwarded to Chancellor Blank for a decision.

Removal would be carried out using private gift funds, not taxpayer dollars.

The Wisconsin Historical Society would also need to review the removal as part of a request to disturb a catalogued burial site.

It has not yet been decided what would happen to the rock following removal – the committee recommended further discussion with students about possible options. Three options currently under consideration are burying the rock at its original resting place, breaking up and disposing of the rock, and moving the rock to the Ice Age Trail in Dane County.

We will continue to share information with the community as this process moves forward.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: "abcox99@aol.com" <abcox99@aol.com>
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 8:50 PM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: <no subject>

I was amazed at the story on the 70 ton rock and how the black students union is so upset about it. From what I read, the "offensive" name has only been said publicly one time in a newspaper article. It looks like groups are going out of their way to find the smallest of things to protest and I find this absurd. What is worse is the fact the College's and University's cave to MOB RULE at the slightest hint of discrimination. By giving in to demands now, how are you preparing these ignorant students, of all colors, to deal with real life situations in the future. If, after they graduate and are in the real world, what will they do if they encounter a situation they feel is demeaning. Will they gather fellow employees and make demands? The real world doesn't work like that. I shudder to think what this country will be like if or when these people get into positions of power. I was taught that if you encounter something you don't like, deal with it. That is part of growing up. Once you give in, the next time might be for you to resign because you said something they don't like. Give in once and they will expect more the next time and at what point do you say, enough is enough or do you let the patients take over control of the asylum.

Alan Cox

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Re:
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:15:00 PM

Thank you!

On Tue, Jun 30, 2020, 4:39 PM Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu> wrote:

Thanks for sharing your views-- please see Chancellor Blank's complete statement on this issue, below:

As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW–Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

As the leader of UW–Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example – without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.

We have a lot of work to do here at the university to address systemic racism and oppression and there is a role for every member of our community. In addition to the resources and initiatives already under way, I will be sharing some new actions and commitments soon . I

invite you to join us in these efforts to build a better, more inclusive campus.

Office of the Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Madison
chancellor@wisc.edu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 11:50 AM
To: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@wisc.edu>
Subject: <no subject>

Please don't allow the statue of Lincoln to come down. It is part of history and a part of the history at UW. HISTORY should never be destroyed.

Catherine Zielinski Carlsen '62

Carl H (Mike) Carlsen '62

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Removal of Chamberlin Rock
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 1:12:09 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Remove Lincoln from Bascom Hill
Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 8:00:07 AM

Dear Chancellor Becky,

I urge you to reconsider your position on the Lincoln statue on Bascom Hill. Lincoln was an agent of massacre of First Nations peoples and his presence on our campus signifies UW-Madison's continued participation in the colonial project.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Restore Frederick March
Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 2:32:35 PM

chancellor@news.wisc.edu

Dear Chancellor Blank,

I hope that the University will restore the unjustly maligned name of Frederick March (of the 'Play Circle').

The given reason for removing his name (in Oshkosh at least) was that "...this institution should reject — the privilege of nuancing,,,,; (Chancellor Leavitt).

I am a physics alumni, and physicists are keenly aware that science is on a "precision frontier". (seeing the gravitational waves for instance, did not require a new concept or tons of money, just more precision, which is now available thanks to science).

I think that social science, economics and the study of history are also due for a precision revolution. Tarring people with broad brushstrokes is obsolete. Nuance is indeed called for rather than cancelling this historic champion of civil and political rights.

(reference: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/17/opinion/wisconsin-Fredric-March.html>)

Sincerely,
Peter Blankenheim

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Rock removal
Date: Monday, August 9, 2021 11:08:11 PM

Chancellor Blank,

I was disappointed to see that the Chamberlin Rock was removed after almost 100 years. I certainly hope this is not the start of erasing history on the campus. I realize that private funds were used. However, I will be apprehensive to make future donations knowing that \$50,000 was used for this. Hard to believe that that money was not needed elsewhere. I expected better from my alma mater.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Saddened by protests & love the statue
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:18:40 AM

Hi there,

I know there are many voices out there, but for what it's worth, upon visiting the UW-Madison campus last year, one thing I loved was the sense of history. This is exemplified by the historic buildings and statues. My son was admitted to many competitive universities, but after visiting campus in Madison, said, "This is the kind of place where I could be inspired to learn." So he chose to be a Badger. Isn't that what it's all about? I am thankful for your decision to preserve the Lincoln statue. We cannot remove our history, we can only reflect on it.

[REDACTED], I and my kids count people of all backgrounds, races and religions among their best friends - never even questioned it. I believe that removing statues and lowering the bar for everyone will never be an answer.

My son moved into the residence halls on campus a couple days ago and is loving meeting new people. Online, asynchronous classes will throw new challenges in time management at him he didn't expect, though. He expected more scheduled online classes. We hope things will settle down soon, and that we can return to the activities that make the university experience so great. Given the Smart Restart plan gave people who don't feel safe coming to campus the option to be fully remote, I honestly don't understand the criticisms. Others who want the in-person experience should be able to get it, and in that regard, we wish there were more in-person options. There are no right answers.

The best answer to equity is not to shut things down more, but to celebrate together. Adding a monument to celebrate inclusiveness would make much more sense than removing the sense of history that is so great.

I hope UW Madison will maintain a strong mission of Win-Win for all people. Not Win-Lose.

Thanks for reading,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Solidarity with WBSU
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 8:45:03 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a graduate student [REDACTED] academic year on campus. Since my arrival in 2016 I have worked as an instructor, mentor, and TA for over 500 undergraduate students. As an integral member of this campus, I write to express my solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union.

I am completely dismayed by the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration to both the current events and systemic racism in our nation. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Solidarity with WBSU
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:56:14 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [Jane Parish Yang](#)
Subject: Statue of Lincoln on Bascom Hill
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:37:36 PM

Thank you for your statement about the Lincoln statue. As an alum and woman, I could find fault with a great many statues in and around campus and state government buildings. But I prefer to think of the person depicted and his (usually) contribution to making our country a more perfect union. Discussion about history is valuable. I just wish critics knew more about the complex history they were critiquing.

Jane Parish Yang

Ph.d (Chinese Language and Literature), December 1981

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support for WBSU's Demands.
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:23:59 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is Stephanie Muñoz, as a UW-Madison Alumni, I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Gracias and in solidarity
Stephanie Muñoz MSW
she/her/hers/ella
UW-Madison School of Social Work Class of 2016

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support of WBSU Demands
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:03:11 AM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support of WBSU Demands
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:04:21 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a graduate student in the Integrative Biology Department. I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the white majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be heard. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Rebecca Blank](#)
Cc: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support of WBSU Demands
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:27:54 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED], and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support of WBSU Demands
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:18:42 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED], and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events taking place in this country. Moreover, I am disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Responses have been largely lackluster and devoid of any real understanding or purpose, and UW students can no longer tolerate indifference.

Currently, Black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population. This is in itself a problem; 3% is not representative of the population of the surrounding area. I worked for two years as TA in an introductory level humanities course, and each semester was dismayed to realize Black students in my classes did not feel supported or welcome in UW spaces. This lack of support is a major reason for the lack of on-campus representation. Regardless of making up a relatively small portion of the student population, these students' voices and lives must be heard and valued. There is nothing detrimental about bettering the lives of minority populations; doing so will only enrich the overall community.

The problems in our country and in our local community are not new problems. It is time for new and concrete solutions. Words are not enough. Words will not appease us. Truly addressing the problem calls for action. To begin, the continued presence of monuments glorifying the racist history of the Madison area must end.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC. You must continually and willingly listen to and discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your Black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands. Recognize and prioritize the experiences of your Black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Support of WBSU Demands
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:43:23 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Office of the Chancellor](#); lressor@wisc.edu; [Charles Hoslet](#); [PATRICK J SIMS](#)
Subject: Supporting WBSU Demands
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:56:39 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: UW BSU action points
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:26:45 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I urge you to stand with the University's Black students, and take action on the list of demands provided by the Black Student Union. This includes the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue and Chamberlain Rock. This is just the beginning of changes that need to happen in the University of Wisconsin system in order to break down systemic racism. Seeing and standing with our Black students and colleagues means taking action. Please take action now.

Best regards,

Aaron Koning, UW PhD '18

From: [Carly Ziter](#)
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#); [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Cc: [UW-Madison Chief Diversity Officer](#)
Subject: UW-Madison Alumni in support of Black Students Union
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:14:09 PM

Dear Chancellor Blank,

As a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin, I urge you to stand with the university's Black students, and take action on the list of demands provided by the Black Student Union. This includes the removal of the Abraham Lincoln statue and Chamberlain Rock. I support the statement and list provided by the Black Student Union, available in full here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CBEbx0KjhlC/>. This is just the beginning of changes that need to happen in the University of Wisconsin system in order to break down systemic racism. Seeing and standing with our Black students and colleagues means taking action. My education at UW-Madison was strongly shaped by the **Wisconsin Idea**, which states that ***what we do here at the University should enhance the lives of every person in the State of Wisconsin, as well as around the nation and the world***. Without taking action in support of Black students and Black Wisconsinites, the University of Wisconsin cannot possibly claim to stand by the Wisconsin Idea in practice. Please take action now.

Sincerely,

Carly Ziter (UW-Madison PhD 2018, Integrative Biology)

Carly Ziter, PhD
Assistant Professor
Biology Department
Hub for Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities and Communities
Concordia University, Montreal
Web: www.carlyziter.com

While I may be sending this email outside my normal office hours, I have no expectation to receive a reply outside yours

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Urgent: Black Student Union
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:21:40 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: WBSU Demands
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:24:06 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students account for less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor; Rebecca Blank; Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: WBSU Solidarity
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:02:56 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: WBSU demands
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:47:02 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Wisconsin BSU
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:20:09 AM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Wisconsin Black Student Union Demands Action
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:31:23 AM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

--

Warm Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Your Black Students Need You!
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:58:03 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although Black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your Black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your Black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Your Black Students Need You.
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:01:38 AM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Black student on your campus. I don't feel seen NOR heard. I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your Black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Your Support of Black UW Students is Urgently Necessary
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:04:02 PM

Hello Chancellor Rebecca Blank,

My name is [REDACTED] and I stand in solidarity with the demands of the Wisconsin Black Student Union. I am completely dismayed by the events of this country, as well as disappointed in the lack of response and urgency of UW-Madison's administration. Although black students are only less than 3% of this campus's population, their lives and their voices still deserve to be heard and valued.

Not only should Chamberlin Rock and the Abraham Lincoln Statue be removed, due to its unacceptable racist and violent origins, but I demand you also meet with WBSU and SIC to discuss their suggestions on how you can ensure that this campus is just as safe and inclusive for them, as it is for the majority.

There is no more waiting or compromising. Your black students must be listened to. I am holding you accountable to stand in solidarity with these demands as well, and prioritize the experiences of your black students. Your immediate action is necessary.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: Office of the Chancellor
Subject: <no subject>
Date: Monday, November 2, 2020 10:56:35 AM

UW-Madison does not intend to remove the Abraham Lincoln Statue on Bascom Hill. Resolutions of student government on this issue are not binding.

The University's position has not changed since this statement in June from Chancellor Rebecca Blank:

“As an educational institution whose mission is to serve and strengthen Wisconsin, our country and the world, our mission is to educate and to advance the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of the human condition. In pursuing our mission, we believe deeply in justice and equity for all people. UW-Madison continues to work on creating a diverse and inclusive campus that supports Black and BIPOC students, faculty and staff and the fight against racism.

“We're in conversations with a variety of campus stakeholders and partners about how to do more and do better. Current efforts include both a public history project and a land acknowledgement in recognition that the university sits upon Ho-Chunk land. Everyone agrees that there is much more to do.

“The university continues to support the Abraham Lincoln statue on our campus. Like those of all presidents, Lincoln's legacy is complex and contains actions which, 150 years later, appear flawed. However, when the totality of his tenure is considered, Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of our greatest presidents, having issued the Emancipation Proclamation, persuaded Congress to adopt the 13th Amendment ending slavery and preserved the Union during the Civil War.

“As the leader of UW-Madison, I believe that Abraham Lincoln's legacy should not be erased but examined, that it should be both celebrated and critiqued. To give just one example - without Lincoln, public land-grant universities like ours might not exist. These universities have been engines of social mobility and economic growth for citizens who would never otherwise have had access to higher education. Yet we recognize that the very act that created these universities relied on money from land expropriated from Native Americans.”