

Primary Source: UNC Students Against The Speaker Ban ^[1]

On February 10, 1966, UNC Chapel Hill's student government passed a resolution in response to the "Speaker Ban." The Speaker Ban Law ^[2] (1963) prohibited speeches on NC college campuses by "known" members of the Communist party, persons "known" to advocate for the overthrow of the state or federal constitutions, and people who pleaded the Fifth Amendment or refused to answer questions about communism. This meant that many people affiliated with the Civil Rights movement were banned from speaking on NC college campuses. Students and leaders at UNC believed that the ban was an assault on academic freedom and free speech. Below is the text of the student government's unanimous resolution. The Speaker Ban Law was ruled unconstitutional and a violation of the First Amendment by the Federal District Court in 1968.

Date: 10 February 1966 RW-40-48

Introduced by: Representative Don Wilson (SP) MD XII, for Paul Dickson, III, President of the Student Body

Action: Passed (no vote in negative -- unanimous)

A resolution in support of free speech at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Whereas: The University must serve as an open forum for different views and opinions, no matter how unpopular or divergent, and

Whereas: The University must guarantee to all members of the academic community the right to hear all sides of the issues, and

Whereas: It is only through the critical examination of all alternatives that the accumulated knowledge of society can be advanced, and

Whereas: It has always been the policy of the North Carolina Forum as a Student Government executive agency to present all points of view on its programs; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the student legislature of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that:

Article I

We support the Carolina forum's invitation to Doctor Aptheker to speak on our campus on March 9, 1966, on the basis of the principle of freedom of speech and academic freedom (with no intent whatsoever of sensationalism).

Article II

We believe it is educationally desirable for us to hear and scrutinize persons representing any and all ideologies and philosophies of government.

Article III

This body is opposed to Communism and other forms of government or philosophy which are alien to democracy.

Article IV

The student Legislature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill urges the student body to express their views on this question and to express their opinion in a mature and responsible manner.

Article V

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the following:

- The Governor of North Carolina
- The President of the University of North Carolina
- The Chancellors of the University of North Carolina

- The Presidents of the Student Bodies of the University of North Carolina
- The Editors of the Student Newspapers of the University of North Carolina
- To each member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina
- To Vice President of Capital Broadcasting Company, Mr. Jesse Helms

Britton L. Gordon, Jr., Vice President of the Student Body and Speaker of the Student Legislature

Paul Dickson, III, President of the Student Body

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[Speaker Ban Law](#) ^[2] on NCpedia

[Speaker Ban Controversy](#) ^[14], I Raised My Hand to Volunteer Online Exhibit, UNC Chapel Hill

[Primary Source: Jesse Helms' Viewpoint on the Speaker Ban](#) ^[15], ANCHOR

Primary Sources:



Student Government

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill

Date: 10 February 1966

FW-40-48

Introduced by: Rep. Don Wilson (SP) MD XII, for Paul Dickson, III, President
of the Student Body

Action: Passed (No vote in negative - unanimous)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FREE SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

- WHEREAS: The University must serve as an open forum for different views and opinions, no matter how unpopular or divergent, and
- WHEREAS: The University must guarantee to all members of the academic community the right to hear all sides of issues, and
- WHEREAS: It is only through the critical examination of all alternatives that the accumulated knowledge of society can be advanced, and
- WHEREAS: It has always been the policy of the Carolina Forum as a Student Government executive agency to present all points of view on its programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL THAT:

- ARTICLE I. We support the Carolina Forum's invitation to Doctor Aptheker to speak on our campus on March 9, 1966, on the basis of the principle of freedom of speech and academic freedom (with no intent whatsoever of sensationalism).
- ARTICLE II. We believe it is educationally desirable for us to hear and scrutinize persons representing any and all ideologies and philosophies of government.
- ARTICLE III. This body is opposed to Communism and other forms of government or philosophy which are alien to democracy.
- ARTICLE IV. The Student Legislature of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill urges the student body to express their views on this question and to express their opinion in a mature and responsible manner.
- ARTICLE V. Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the following:
- The Governor of North Carolina
 - The President of the University of North Carolina
 - The Chancellors of the University of North Carolina
 - The Presidents of the Student Bodies of the University of North Carolina

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One of Resolution in Support of Free Speech^[16]

3 January 2018

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