



February 12, 2026

The UNC-Chapel Hill Chapter of AAUP opposes classroom recording for any reason without the instructor's consent. We were shocked to learn on Monday February 9th that the Interim Provost had drafted a new policy allowing the recording of classes to go into effect on Monday February 16th.

In 2024, administrators in the Business School secretly recorded classes of economics instructor Larry Chavis. Consequently, administrators at the School opted not to renew his contract, and Chavis is suing the university.

In subsequent conversations between the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and then Provost Chris Clemens, it became clear that UNC-Chapel Hill did not have a policy about the recording of classes. In developing the new policy, there should have been discussion with all stakeholders, particularly faculty and students. Instead, it appears that the policy was drafted by high-level administrators without any input, despite claims by University spokespeople to the contrary.

The faculty received no formal notification (e.g., via a mass email). This policy came to our attention only when it was discussed on February 9th at the FEC meeting. Such short notice is unacceptable. The process is a clear violation of shared governance.

In addition, the policy itself is troubling, especially in the provisions allowing secret recording of classrooms. AAUP has firmly stated ([2013](#); [2024](#)) that recording faculty members' classes should always have the consent of the instructor.

According to the proposed policy, UNC-Chapel Hill administrators may, with the provost and general counsel's written permission, record classes or access existing recordings without notifying faculty: to "gather evidence in connection with an investigation into alleged violations of university policy" or "for any other lawful purpose, when authorized in writing by the provost and the office of university counsel, who will consult with the chair of the faculty." This nebulous role for the Chair of the Faculty in no way alleviates our concerns as faculty.

The policy disregards trust between instructors and students. A classroom is for registered students only, and is privileged conversation. Students will self-censor if they know that their words in class can be recorded by administrators. The policy violates student privacy and will surely run afoul of federal regulation.

We know from history that education cannot possibly thrive in an atmosphere of state-encouraged suspicion and surveillance. We know that policies like this have allowed universities in Oklahoma and Texas to remove instructors from the classroom. This policy paves the way for such actions at UNC.