



October 1, 2025

AAUP NC and UNC-Chapel Hill AAUP condemn the egregious violation of Professor Dwayne Dixon's First Amendment rights to free speech and free association, his Fourteenth Amendment right to due process, and his [academic freedom](#).

On Monday, September 29, 2025, UNC Chapel Hill placed Dwayne Dixon, Teaching Associate Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, on administrative leave following "[recent reports and expressions of concern regarding alleged advocacy of politically motivated violence](#)." These "reports" and "expressions of concern" amounted to one unverified social media post and one Fox News story.

Right-wing activists are attacking Dixon for prior membership in a group that has been inactive since 2019, and are baselessly connecting him to flyers allegedly posted by a different group on a different campus outside of North Carolina. Fox News picked up the story on September 27, 2025, without verifying the existence of the flyers, and apparently this was enough for UNC's administration to remove a professor from the classroom in the middle of the semester and bar him from campus in a manner that is wholly inconsistent with University policies.

Let's call this what it is: UNC administrators are capitulating to a call from a right-wing group, infamous for attacking faculty, to fire a professor based on an unsubstantiated rumor.

With their cowardly response, UNC's administrators have not only violated Professor Dixon's basic rights. They have also infringed on students' right to an education by taking a professor out of their classroom during the middle of a semester. This unexplained and unjustified decision has intensified an existing campus atmosphere of fear and censorship, further eroding students' and faculty's trust in UNC's administration.

AAUP NC and UNC-Chapel Hill AAUP remind UNC administrators of the [UNC System Board of Governors Policy on Free Speech and Free Expression](#), which affirms that "it is not the proper role of any constituent institution to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment, including, without limitation, ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive."

We demand Professor Dixon's immediate reinstatement, a public explanation of how this decision was reached, an affirmation of faculty and students' rights to freedom of speech and expression, and a public apology to Professor Dixon.

Signed:

Belle Boggs, NC AAUP President

Michael Palm, UNC-Chapel Hill AAUP President