

UNC-Chapel Hill
NBC's "Today" Show Interview (10/26/18)
<https://www.today.com/>

Media Q&A

TV Show: NBC's "Today" Show

Show Host(s): Savannah Guthrie Co-Host: Hoda Kotb

Show Guests: UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol Folt

Show Topic: UNC-CH Silent Sam Statue

Show Date: Friday, October 26, 2018

Interview Time: 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. EST

Show Airst: Friday, October 26, 2018 (7:00 a.m. EST)

Interview Format: Live, In-Studio

Show Details: **Chancellor Folt will arrive at Rockefeller Center, Studio 1A at 7:00 a.m. EST**
Contact # (919) 633-8872
Emergency Back-up #: (919) 269-5593
Emergency Contact: Norton Communications (828) 448-9233

Today Show Overview: The Today Show is a daily live broadcast that provides current domestic and international news, weather reports and interviews with newsmakers from the worlds of politics, business, media, entertainment and sports.

Sample Questions &

Talking Points:

1. What is the university's plan for the Silent Sam statue?

- University is still navigating the legality of the statue's removal or resurrection
- No guarantees as to what will happen, don't want to promise anything that isn't known for certain
- Working to do what's best for everyone involved

2. What do you personally want to be done in regards to the Silent Sam statue?

- Relocation works in the interest of what's best for the community
- Desires a way to preserve history and use the statue as a way of teaching history, the statue should not interfere with the university's core mission and values
- The controversy poses an unwanted threat to the wellbeing of students and local residents

3. What are your thoughts on the protest that led to Silent Sam being torn down?

- Regardless of personal feelings, destruction of state property is never okay
- Gratitude for lack of injuries or other dangers
- The university is still investigating the incident, and the perpetrators will have to be held accountable

4. How does UNC-CH plan to handle future protests on campus?

- Safety is of the utmost importance, preservation of free speech just as crucial
- Taking every precaution possible ahead of time, doing whatever is necessary to ensure peace and security
- Praise the hard work of Chapel Hill law enforcement

5. Do you believe that the Silent Sam statue is a symbol of racism?

- Can understand how many perceive the statue as racist, can also see how others perceive it as an important piece of history, very complicated issue
- Statue represents a dark time in American history where values were vastly different
- Product of its time, the country and its culture has made a considerable shift since the statue was erected

6. Does UNC-CH promote a racist and discriminatory campus environment?

- Racism and discrimination have no place on Carolina's campus
- University works hard to ensure that equality is valued at the forefront in how the institution operates
- Goal is to always promote diversity and inclusion, all identities are welcome here

7. In what ways does UNC-CH ensure that all students, regardless of their identity, feel safe and welcome on campus?

- Strongly support students using their voices to raise awareness on issues they're passionate about
- Our recent campaign, For All Kind, has emphasized the beauty of diversity on our campus
- There are many on-campus and community outlets for students to meet and form bonds with others of similar backgrounds or interests, giving them security and a sense of belonging

8. How does the university plan to fairly address the concerns of all sides related to the Silent Sam controversy?

- Open to holding community forums to give everyone a chance to communicate their viewpoints
- Encouraging those that feel strongly to personally reach out to the university and relevant lawmakers
- Won't make any decisions without first understanding the concerns of all sides

9. What else should people know about UNC-CH that makes it special?

- Genuine commitment to empowering future leaders to explore their passions
- Carolina is the University of the People, we believe in the power of individuals to make huge impacts in the community and world around them
- There's not one type of student, faculty member, or staff member on this campus, we celebrate individuality and what each person can contribute to our campus community

10. What's going on with the Tar Heels football team this season?

- Our school spirit is pretty unwavering, regardless if we win or lose
- Praise how hard our players, coaches, and other staff are working to make the team strong
- No matter what, proud to be a Tar Heel