

**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