

**Subject:** FW: Lenoir Protest Today

**Date:** Fri, 29 Apr 2005 15:14:08 -0400

**From:** "Winston Crisp" <wberisp@email.unc.edu>

**To:** "Margaret Jablonski" <mjablons@email.unc.edu>,  
"Melissa Exum" <exum@email.unc.edu>,  
"Christopher A. Payne" <cpayne@email.unc.edu>,  
"Joanna Carey Smith" <joanna@unc.edu>, "Brenda Kirby" <brenda\_kirby@unc.edu>,  
"Nancy Davis" <nancy\_davis@unc.edu>

**CC:** "David Gilbert" <dgilbert@email.unc.edu>

*ANNEX*

Friends: Nancy Davis called me around 12:15 today to let me know that a protest was taking place in Lenoir Hall. As I was off campus, I asked David Gilbert (Asst. Dean in Dean of Students Office) to head to Lenoir to assess and defuse the situation. When I returned to campus and made my way to Lenoir, the students had dispersed and both campus police and Dave Gilbert were still there ensuring that the protest was over. Dave Gilbert (see his summary below) did an absolutely wonderful job of defusing the situation. We remained at Lenoir for awhile before returning to our office.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Winston Crisp

Senior Associate Dean of Students

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**From:** Dave Gilbert [mailto:dgilbert@email.unc.edu]

**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2005 2:07 PM

**To:** Winston Crisp

**Subject:** Lenoir Protest

At approximately 12:20 PM, I received a call from Winston Crisp informing me that the students were engaging in a protest inside of Lenoir Hall and asking that I arrive at Lenoir to assess the situation. When I arrived, a group of approximately 10 students were assembled, banging buckets and chanting outside of the administrative offices on the ground floor. UNC PD were on sight and waiting at the top of the stairs.

I spoke with the students and let them know that, although they have a right to free speech, their actions were disrupting university business (restricting access to the office suite and creating a disturbance). I informed them that we did not want any of the students to suffer repercussions, but that they needed move their protest activities outside. The students challenged me, stating that they were on public property and had a right to express themselves. I told them that the university had regulations about the acceptable time, place, and manner that the public can express themselves, and standing in front of the offices preventing the administrators from working violated the acceptable places for demonstration. I let them know that we support their ability to express themselves, but this right may not interfere with normal university operations. I told them that we were available to help them understand where the line is drawn between effective protest and disruption, and I encouraged them to refer to us as needed.

Today

The students at first stated that they may decide that remaining inside the building was the only effective means of being heard, and they stated that they were frustrated with the slow pace of the process and felt that nobody was listening. I told them that I had been present at some of the meetings, and I do not agree that they were not being heard--I assured them that the university was investigating the issues they have raised and that this issue is very much at the forefront of the agenda of the administration. I let them know that they could discuss whether they wished to remain in the building (with the consequences that may entail). After meeting for a couple of minutes, the students proceeded outside to the Pit where they continued their protest for 15-20 more minutes.

While outside, I approached Jillian (their de facto leader), and let her know that I appreciated their decision, and that our office was there to serve to let the students understand where their protest may be crossing the line into disruption in an effort to reduce the likelihood that any of the students might get in trouble.

I met with Mike (Aux. Services) afterward and praised him for calling us, letting him know that we are happy to serve as intermediaries to be sure that the students had the ability to express themselves in a manner that does not violate university policy or the law. I gave him the Dean of Students pager number and encouraged him to call us anytime the students protest so that we can be sure to be present to assist him.

Dave Gilbert, J.D.

Assistant Dean of Students

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