Report of the Committee of Collegiate Senators

Several faculty from the College brought to the Collegiate Senators concerns about WFBH and the WFU (Medical) Foundation evictions of five residents from housing during the pandemic. The Collegiate Senators bring these concerns to the University Senate since evictions during a pandemic are not consistent with the University’s commitment to Pro Humanitate. We ask the Senate to approve the following motion and send it to Susan Wente (Wake Forest University President) and Julie Ann Freischlag (CEO of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, Dean of Wake Forest School of Medicine, and Chief Academic Officer (Atrium Health)).

Motion: The University Senate expresses its concern about WFBH and the WFU (Medical) Foundation evictions of five residents from housing during the Covid pandemic. We believe that these actions are not consistent with the University’s motto “Pro Humanitate”, and they reflect poorly on Wake Forest University.

The evidence that these evictions took place comes from files available from the Forsyth County Clerk of Court. This includes the five proceedings associated with three addresses, as well as an additional eviction proceeding filed by WFU Medical Foundation on September 16th. The files show WFBH and WFU (Medical) Foundation as the plaintiff providing clear evidence (this information will not be redacted) of the evictions. In addition, there is a photo taken in mid-December 2020 (which was also tweeted at that time) of the Forsyth County Sheriff Dept. executing the lock-out on one of the house.

The address is clearly captured in the picture that was tweeted and the date is documented in the tweet Faculty talked with Hof Milam about this action; he does not deny that it took place, but he states that these properties are not in his jurisdiction and the Reynolda campus administration was not involved in these decisions.

In addition, if possible, the Collegiate Senators would like an explanation of the relationship between WFBH, the Wake Forest (Medical) Foundation and Wake Forest University.

Ellen Kirkman
November 5, 2021