

Statement in Defense of UVA School of Medicine Faculty & Colleagues

April 7, 2025

We are peer-elected Faculty Senators and Senators-Elect at the University of Virginia (UVA) School of Medicine in addition to the President and Vice President of the Clinical Staff at UVA Medical Center. We write in our individual capacities, not on behalf of UVA or any related entity.

A series of public letters from [Messrs. Conner, Murray, Clement, Scully, Crutchfield](#) and [Dr. Kassell](#) has advanced a false narrative that the “[Physicians who ousted UVA Health CEO \[were\] motivated by greed.](#)” We write to set the record straight and lay that narrative to rest.

Most of those cited are now a step removed from the official governance of the health system. Dozens of faculty offered to speak privately with several of them in response to their letters before they were published. The offer was ignored. Given the subsequent publication of their letters and related reporting, it would be a disservice to the community not to defend our faculty against a campaign of falsehoods accusing physicians of placing personal profit above the interests of patients.

We share the goal to be the nation’s leading public academic health system. We respect concerns regarding the recent controversy’s effect on UVA Health’s reputation and those of the thousands of outstanding health care providers who work tirelessly for the well-being of their patients. We agree it is unfortunate that this conflict has become aired in public.

However, the indisputable facts are as follows: For four years, serious and pervasive concerns were raised multiple times by multiple physicians in the quiet of the administrative process with zero public discourse. After four years of dismissive responses and even retaliation, concerns were escalated to the Board of Visitors, who retained a law firm to investigate the allegations. The investigation led to Craig Kent’s immediate resignation, demonstrating that these longstanding concerns were indeed significant and actionable. Further, President Ryan subsequently offered a public apology for his initial response.

One conclusion is very clear: the stated impetus of these letters—to prevent further reputational harm—is unavoidably at odds with the false and vicious smear offered as an alternative to these established facts. Whatever the agenda for publicizing these letters, the letters collectively take untenable positions against a broad swath of UVA clinicians; the Faculty Senate; the Chair of the Audit, Compliance and Risk Committee; the President of the University; the current Board of Visitors; and two nationally respected law firms.

We applaud the true leadership demonstrated by those who have come forward to protect their patients, colleagues, and institution; put their careers at risk; and suffered retaliation as a consequence.

Decisions made in the past that led us to the current moment deserve the light of transparency. All have now seen the consequences of the present vacuum. Thus, we reiterate the [resolution of the Faculty Senate](#) to restore public confidence with “the timely public release of the report of the investigation with anonymity and redactions as required by law.”

In closing, we continue to provide the best possible care we can, prioritize our patients’ needs, teach our students and residents, and advance research—as we always have and always will. We stand with our faculty and Jefferson’s vision for UVA, “for here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead.”

Sincerely (alphabetically by category),

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