# UNC Chapel Hill Diverts $2.3 Million from Diversity Programs to Policing Amid Protests



At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Board of Trustees voted on Monday to reallocate $2.3 million from diversity programs towards public safety and policing measures. This decision comes amid a series of pro-Palestinian protests on the campus, which have involved several arrests. The board's action, which impacts the financial support for the university's diversity initiatives including its Office of Diversity & Inclusion, will take effect starting the 2024-2025 fiscal year on July 1.

The University’s decision to divert these funds has been compared to similar moves at other institutions. For instance, the University of Florida previously shifted funds from its diversity programs towards faculty recruitment, influenced by legislative changes. The reallocation decision at UNC Chapel Hill, however, precedes any direct legislative mandates from North Carolina's state government.

The board's vote arrives against a backdrop of changing policies on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within higher education governance across the nation. With North Carolina’s Republican House Speaker Tim Moore signaling a potential legislative pursuit against DEI initiatives, the UNC Board of Governors is also slated to review its diversity policies imminently.

This funding shift reflects a broader conservative trend in U.S. state governments and college boards to re-examine and often curtail DEI initiatives in public education and government institutions. Meanwhile, reactions to the board's decision and its impact on the university's diversity staffing and programs are pending, as the specifics of job reductions and restructuring under the new budget allocation remain unclear.