



Re: A Message from President Hatch

1 message

Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu>

Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 4:19 PM

To: "Nathan O. Hatch" <nhatch@wfu.edu>

Cc: Dean Jonathan Lee Walton <walton@wfu.edu>, "Zanish-Belcher, Tanya

Dear President Hatch,

Thank you for this message of concern for the communities in which we live. I wanted to offer some insight into my experience at Wake Forest University and how White Supremacy can look, because as we all know, a racist is not born overnight, it is a gradual process of indoctrination, systemic support, and logical justification.

I once asked a Wake white professor, "What if it were your white spouse who was here, or one of our White Dean's? Don't you think that the white students would have ensured proper preparation for the needs expressed, that I, as the only black student in the class, did not?"

To which this white professor responded, "That is different."

My point was made with this white professor's rebuttal: prestige, color, age, gender, or anything else should not make one person more worthy of being heard and served equally than another.

My recent emails to Mr. Wise regarding a return of funds that the University agreed to give back, but didn't, is another example. I had proper permission to park at WS First Church, in which I was a volunteer. I was ticketed anyway, and the funds were withdrawn from my semester refund, furthering my food insecurity and gaps within paying my medical costs. I had to seek other resources, to which it was very difficult to do so, long lines, and many, "We don't have resources to help you."

The \$450 that Wake University kept of parking tickets that were issued to me, even when the Pastor and Wake University Staff and Professors wrote letters in full support of my cases, explaining partnerships and why I parked where I did, is unfair. It is a demonstration of white supremacy because it says that power gets to decide justice, not the events nor the facts. It keeps people like myself working extra hard just to maintain what was already mine to start with, but taken by force.

George Floyd was not killed by someone who "lost it" momentarily, no, he was killed by a system who gave permission a little at a time to take the rights away from people who were never considered part of the "American People" and who have to work extra hard for rights that are already theirs, like the right to live, or the right to eat, or the right to have decent health.

I have spent my time at Wake volunteering and participating in the Call to Conversations, moderating heartfelt conversations, and even being requested by name to lead some of these talks. I have facilitated groups promoting liturgical dances within the spiritual life at Wake, and encouraging deep thought around controversial issues, and promoted health and wellbeing, all with the hope of bringing people together. I am a loving and loyal citizen who works hard, and believes in fairness.

I have enjoyed my time of learning at Wake. It has strengthened me through the many times I have had to use my voice. It has calmed me through the many ways I had to learn how to deregulate an over stressed mind. It has empowered me to call by name what is mine through the many fights of racial, economic, and gender justice experienced.

My parents have roots in Winston Salem. My mom grew up in the Boston - Thurman neighborhoods, and once again I find myself in the historical African American roots of East Winston where my Dad's family called home, and where blacks are mostly centered in Winston Salem. This area is also considered a food desert, low resourced, struggling education entities, and marginalized--all built by intentional design.

Your school-wide emails have encouraged me to hope for justice in the area of racial equality, which automatically includes the fight for economic justice, but these emails also have me wondering how much of racial and economic justice is understood on the level that counts the most, everyday life. It does not help to only promote racial and economic justice on the rooftops for all to hear, it must also be done in the bedroom, the closet, and when taking out the trash.

Jesus said, "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone."

I am inspired and filled with hope when I read your emails. My prayer is that that same energy of justice is experienced within the daily lives of students, staff, workers, and faculty so that they don't have to fight for justice in the classroom, in the parking lot, in the dining hall, or the hours in which they serve Wake, in order to protect basic rights.

It would be honorable and just to refund my \$450, especially during this challenging time. May we all truly have access to all of our basic rights. Thank you for your time, your leadership, and most of all, your stated commitment to justice.

Respectfully,
Joy



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On Sat, May 30, 2020 at 4:02 PM Nathan O. Hatch <nhatch@wfu.edu> wrote:

Dear Wake Forest community,

Once again, we have seen our fellow human beings killed. George Floyd, Steven Taylor, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery did not have to die. Their deaths have caused grief, anger, frustration, fear and hopelessness for many. Because of the deep effects of systemic racism, our country is once again trying to make sense of the senseless violence and relentless oppression aimed at the African American community. Witnessing what has happened over these past few days, including the unrest in more than 30 cities as communities plead for an end to racism, white supremacy and violence against people of color, it is overwhelming to see the anguish etched on the faces of so many.

To members of the Wake Forest community who are feeling pain and fear brought on by these deaths, I am sorry and I grieve with you. Though I cannot fully comprehend the sadness and sorrow, I'm disheartened that, yet again, our nation has failed to live up to its ideals and our communities have ignored the infinite dignity of all its members.

To our African American students, staff, faculty, families, alumni and extended community members specifically, I realize that this time of tragedy comes in the middle of a global pandemic that is adding suffering and claiming lives disproportionately, and keeping us apart when we would typically reach out to one another for comfort. I vow to continue supporting you in these troubling times, standing with you as we address issues of social justice and driving our community to do better.

We cannot ignore injustice or wish away racism and bigotry. Now more than ever, we must confront hatred and uphold one another in times of great division and inequity. Though we are not together on campus during this national crisis, we will always be linked by our pursuit of truth and our commitment to each other -- as Wake Foresters and as human beings.

Sincerely,

Nathan O. Hatch
President

On Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 12:23 AM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:
Hi Mr. Wise,

Thank you for quick response. However, please clarify. I do not understand the reasoning. Would you please explain to me why the refund is being denied when it was partially refunded already? Is that legal to do so?

I agree with you that these are challenging times, but does that mean that what is right is ignored? Especially in light of President's Hatch's email that was sent a few days ago, which was absolutely beautiful, but had me stumped because here I am asking for the completed amount to be refunded, and am being denied or ignored. I have permission letters to park where I did.

I ask in respectful humbleness and out of confusion. My mom grew up in the Boston-Thurman neighborhood, and I continue to live in East Winston, in a historically black area that is considered a food desert and low resource neighborhood. She now lives with me. Where is the University acting on behalf of the vulnerable that President Hatch mentions in the email? Where are the policy decisions that can liberate the vulnerable within the decisions in which the University has power to help? How are the food workers coping?

I am only asking for the remainder of the funds that were previously refunded, anyone would, and I believe you would too. In all due respect, this is not a matter of only meeting my food and medical needs during a challenging pandemic, it is also a matter of getting what seems right by pro humanitarian laws and by the system's rules.

Please, please help me understand why you are denying any further refunds? Thank you for your help thus far. I deeply appreciate it.

Respectfully,
Joy



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On Sun, Mar 15, 2020 at 7:09 PM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:
Joy

These are challenging times and ones that create uncertainty and anxious moments as we navigate our path forward. I wish to suggest you connect with you leadership in the Divinity school to help plan for any needs you have. They would be best suited to help.

John

On Sun, Mar 15, 2020 at 3:44 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:
Hi Mr. Wise, President Hatch, and Ms. Spaugh,

With the recent outbreak there are many financial changes. In light of the emails that President Hatch has been sending regarding pro humanitate I wanted to ask for a team approach, for something small in light of the current global demands, but big in my world. And in light of your generous help previously Mr. Wise, please reconsider refunding the parking fees that remain on my account since I have documentation (letters of explanation and support) from Wake University personnel and affiliates for my exoneration.

I am asking for this because have several medical bills, and need food and supplies. The community resources are quickly being consumed, and I wanted to write this email sooner before this outbreak, but due to medical reasons I was delayed. With the time away from school, and even more urgent reasons due to the pandemic, I find the time to write to ask for your continued help now for the refund of the remaining funds tied up on my account.

Please forgive the reemergence of this conversation, and truly, thank you Mr. Wise for your previous kindness. Here is a brief recap of the reasons:

- I was volunteering with the dance department, letter was written by dance department and divinity school as to why there was a discrepancy between my volunteer role in July, and student status of an internship completed in May of that summer.

-I volunteered at WS First church, and was given parking tickets until the letters of support were given by the pastor. Once turned into the parking services, the fees were not refunded. After an appeal, one ticket remains on my account.

-As a moderator for the call to conversation I often want to avoid walking in the dark to my car, so I parked on campus, after 5pm. A warning ticket was denied because of the previous mentioned tickets, and a warning would have been most appropriate given the circumstance of the aforementioned tickets and wanting to avoid the sexual assault claims that were circulating during that time on campus.

I have not gotten any more tickets since, as you will see, as I take my role as a great citizen and member of this community very seriously, and adherence to policies is my first priority. Please see my heart, and please help me with the remaining refunds on my account.

Thank you again for your help, Mr. Wise, and thank you President Hatch for believing in pro humanitate as a campus-wide focus. I need your power right now. Thank you for reading, helping, and being kind.

With Deep Gratitude,
Joy



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On Fri, Nov 22, 2019 at 10:43 AM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Of course, Mr. Wise. I didn't realize that I had not communicated well my gratefulness. Please let me know what could have been more effective. I honestly would love to know that. I said thank you, but I know people understand gratefulness differently. I wonder, if instead of continuing through email, may I come back into your office to talk with you in person? I would feel much more confident with that option, if you are open to it. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Joy



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On Thu, Nov 21, 2019 at 5:28 PM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:

Thank you for acknowledging my effort to get you this far - I appreciate it and am glad to help as best I could. I am unclear as to your next best steps but might suggest Divinity School leadership as a path forward. I know you have gone as far as you wanted in the Financial Aid process.

John

On Thu, Nov 21, 2019 at 1:27 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Thanks, Mr. Wise, maybe you can help me know where to go to next because the ticket approval seems incongruent, and I have done nothing wrong, and I would like to pursue some assistance. Please point me in the direction, as I am clear that you have done all you can. Thank you for your help thus far.

Grateful,
Joy

On Thu, Nov 21, 2019, 9:46 AM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:

Joy

All the tickets refunds that I have approved have been applied to your student account. Any other tickets you received are your responsibility.

John

On Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 6:22 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Hi Mr. Wise,

I just wanted to check back in for the credit to my account. Please get back in touch with me. I need these funds that were docked from my account for my medical expenses.

Grateful,
Joy



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On Wed, Sep 25, 2019 at 5:36 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Thanks for a timely response. Are you saying that there is a ticket just like the others that were credited to my account that was intentionally left off of the refund list? That seems odd to do. Would you know why they decided that?

Thank You,
Joy



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On Wed, Sep 25, 2019 at 4:36 PM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:

Joy

This is a list of approved citations that were refunded. All of these have been refunded .

John

02/27/2018	Denied	Advisory Committee	100427393	10/10/2017	No Registration	Church section	Same day citations
10/16/2017	Denied	Advisory Committee	100427394	10/10/2017	Unauthorized Zone	Church section	
02/27/2018	Denied	Advisory Committee	100427480	10/17/2017	No Registration	Church section	Same day citations
02/27/2018	Denied	Advisory Committee	100427481	10/17/2017	Unauthorized Zone	Church section	
02/27/2018	Denied	Advisory Committee	100216013	10/31/2017	No Registration	Unable to determine location in lot from pictures	Same day citations
02/27/2018	Denied	Advisory Committee	100216014	10/31/2017	Unauthorized Zone		

On Wed, Sep 25, 2019 at 2:31 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Hi Mr. Wise,

I hope you are doing well. I received the reimbursement that honors my agreement with the church, which you said would happen, however, there was one ticket that was left off. I think I saw the date of January 2018. I'm not sure what I need to do, as the financial office said that parking puts any credits back on the account. Thank you for your continued help.

Grateful,
Joy

On Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 1:09 PM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:

Joy

As I look for solutions, I can think of the following

1. Continue parking at any church approved location and ride the Wake Forest Shuttle that loops through the church parking lot and drops off adjacent to Hearn Plaza in Parking Lot N. [This is a free option for you.](#)
2. Purchase an on campus parking permit which would be billed to your student account and not require a credit card up front. It would require you to pay your account at some point in the near future as specified by Student Financial Services.
3. Park on campus without a permit with the understand that any citations will need to be paid. You do have the right to appeal any citations though a written appeals process to the parking advisory committee.- a group a faculty staff and students who adjudicate any appeals. Please keep in mind that the decision of the appeal committee is final on any citations. Those citations will again be billed to your account.

Please know I am trying to help and that simply providing free on campus parking is not an available option.

John

On Wed, Sep 4, 2019 at 10:18 AM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Thank you, Mr. Wise. I liked how you re-offered Tom's skills, as you are right, they are admirable. I thought I had responded to your first suggestion in my last email to you, in which I mentioned the only offerings in fin aid that has been offered to me is my semester refund, which is still processing, and loans. Given my socio-economic background and what it has taken me to get to this point in my life (getting my family out of dept, renovating a family home, and paying off my prior undergrad loans), loans are not a viable option, but rather a financial trap. My trajectory is working in non-profit and in ministry, and I am interested in making choices that will help build society, instead of weighing down, and loans weigh down.

I was hoping that if money is sought for me access the handicap parking space on campus, which I have a valid placard for, we could pursue a reasonable amount/solution for the temporary status.

Thanks again for your help. Tom, if you have other options in the form of scholarships, grants, or other funds, I would absolutely be glad to apply/receive those items as a part of this solution.

Thanks Everyone, I am grateful for all you do.

Joy



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On Tue, Sep 3, 2019 at 5:12 PM Wise, John <jwise@wfu.edu> wrote:

Joy

As I indicated, the Office of Financial Aid may be the best plan to look for solutions. I am copying Tom Benza, a colleague of mine, who possess the creative acumen to find solutions to situations like this one. I am happy to facilitate a meeting in the next day or two if your schedule permits.

John

On Thu, Aug 29, 2019 at 3:43 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:

Thank you, Mr. Wise. I might lean on you for the help that you offered. At this point, refunds on accounts in financial aid are not issued until after classes are solidified, and that leaves me with another week or so of having to figure out how to access classes on campus without jeopardizing my injury further and wellbeing, and so far, my knee is actually getting worse because of the extended walking I am doing to get to class. The refund that I'm due by financial aid, the moneys are already spoken for, whether it is just regular living expense around food, gas, medical, or family, or for the small emergencies that are popping up, like car repair that I need.

I'm really unsure how to advocate for what I need with such limited options. My handicap pass is temporary, so I'm only asking for help for the small amount of time I need for my knee to heal, and even if my registration costs is at a prorated rate, from where will the \$550 come from that I can give you all? Credit card? I'm in a position to think well of my finances and credit cards are choices that I wish to avoid, and according to research, should be avoided. I thought that the request for me was to get my car registered, but it seems all the registrations are attached to some financial payment, so again, I'm having a hard time trying to comply to wishes that overextend my capacity. I'm happy to pay something if that is what this parking exchange is about, but please let it be an amount that I can afford and that is reasonable to match the temporary accommodation.

I'm going to see where else I can go on campus, as financial aid is a place that can help with my refund, but that is all that will be suitable for my position short and long term, and again, that refund will be issued in September, which is much longer than my immediate needs getting to class. I can only be late so many times, and missing class until my knee heals is no option I wish to choose. My hope is that we could come to an agreement so that I can get to my classes reasonably, without causing more injury to my knee. Again, I have a State-issued and approved handicap placard that was seen by two doctors, so now it is just figuring out how I can actually access the space while I need it on campus--to help promote healing.

I will continue to ask for help in other places on campus and see what solutions come about. It seems like a waste to be able to receive a full scholarship and have trouble getting to class. It seems like we could figure out a small thing like parking during this temporary time that I need a legal and medical accommodation.

Thank you for your help, and if you think of anything else please let me know. I might reach back out if some of my options could use your support. Thanks again for your time.

Grateful,
Joy



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On Tue, Aug 27, 2019 at 3:19 PM Wise, John <jjwise@wfu.edu> wrote:
Joy

I am glad you copied me on the email to Ulylisa. Your financial situation is one that needs attention by someone outside of parking services. The parking team can only provide you with information and direction based on the scope of the roll they play at Wake Forest. They are not a source for understanding or assisting in financial need. They are happy to address your permits and access. If you wish, I will be happy to connect you with the Office of Financial Aid to see how they may provide guidance and direction to help you.

John

On Tue, Aug 27, 2019 at 3:00 PM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:
Thank you, Ulylisa.

I have cced Mr. Wise, as you all are familiar with my financial situation, and I'm wondering, if there are any grants or scholarships for parking for at least the time I am using the handicap placard. It seems that if someone needs an accommodation, to only have that access blocked due to finances, seems like there might be a better way we can figure this out. I can understand having the car be registered (which I'm trying to do) and showing proof of handicap registration (which I have), but being pigeoned holed into only one payment option (\$550) to use a State registered need seems to have a different feel than the hospitality that is needed to make it welcoming to all people.

What is expected of commuter students who need a handicap space, but are unable to pay the \$550, even if some of the finances are refunded? The finances of some are very volatile, which is some of what President Hatch referred to in his letter to the school yesterday regarding hospitality. Please join me to figure out this dilemma. I am running out of people to drop me off at campus, and the anxiety and stress yesterday of trying to figure out how I was getting to my classes is making the injury worse, which is why the handicap placard was partly issued. I have been diagnosed with anxiety and depression, and I just need additional support to make my studies successful and to finish. This year is my last. Thank you for your help and support.

Grateful,
Joy



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On Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 10:40 AM Transportation and Parking Services <parking@wfu.edu> wrote:
Good morning Joy,

We can issue you an on campus permit that you would be able to utilize the handicap spaces. However, that permit does have a charge. The only temporary option would be the one where student health send us notification for temporary medical parking. The one that they issued for the 2 weeks was the temporary no charge one. The temporary one they issue does not include the handicap spaces.

To be able to use the handicap spaces with your placard you would need to come to the office with the placard and the state handicap registration card. We would then issue you the on campus permit at \$550. If you no longer need the permit and return it to our office before March we can issue you a prorated refund based on when the permit was returned.

Kind regards,

Ulylisa

On Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 9:33 AM Williams, Joy <willj317@wfu.edu> wrote:
Hello,

I hope you are well. Could someone please tell me how to register my car if I choose the free option, please? I have other long-term parking arrangements, but would like to temporarily use the handicap option on campus until my doctor clears my knee injury (I have a temporary NC registered handicap placard).

Grateful,
Joy



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Transportation and Parking Services
Wake Forest University
336.758.PARK
parking@wfu.edu
8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday

8:30am-3:00

2 attachments

 **anxiety.pdf**
107K

 **2018 parking.pdf**
1743K