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The more comments that are released on behalf of our Vice Chancellor, the more I am concerned for our university. It is becoming increasingly evident that there is not a clear understanding of what it takes to define and defend each and every person that makes up our community to our Vice Chancellor. When our Vice Chancellor makes claims around the "anonymous chargers" he is connecting to the poster campaign, he fails to acknowledge both the weight of his privilege and the hollow lack of such a possibility for the students responsible for participating in that campaign.

We as a group of students are sick and tired of not being heard. Let me tell you something about violence, violence comes slow, comes quietly, often not transparent, like the communication between our higher ups and our students and faculty. Everyday, each and every one of us are granted the opportunity to speak in the face of violence. Whether it's asking that girl at that party if she's okay and finding her water when she may not be or simply letting someone borrow a book for class because they can't afford all the materials. We have all at some point been at a crossroads and had to make a decision that did not prioritize our comfort but rather the importance of standing and supporting our neighbor. We are even doing this now, with our weekend bacchus shifts, with our bystander trainings. We as students have taken up our responsibility well and proudly on this campus to do something about the sexual assault violations and all we are asking is that our Board of Regents and Vice Chancellor do the same.

We have finally found the strength to speak up in the face of fear, the face of power, the face of privilege, the face of whiteness, in the face of everything that some of us are not. Today it is about this revocation but tomorrow it may be something different and

when that time comes, we want each and every one of you to have the platform to do so. SpeakUpSewanee is about more than just our campus climate right now, it is a movement that belongs to each and every one of you, one that allows you to put your truths, the ones you are bound to confine, out there for everyone to know. It is about your right to question this institution and the all the other institutions we will all be confronted with when we leave this mountain.

SpeakUpSewanee is not about Vice Chancellor McCardell. Let us be clear that while we are bringing John McCardell and his actions, or rather lack of actions, into question, this is not a concern with his character. It is an acknowledgement of his power as the representative of this campus and institution at large. During an interview with reporter Scott Jaschik, McCardell commented on students behavior as “inappropriate and a fundamental violation of the rules of civil behavior.” What unspoken rule of law does he is so quickly feel entitled to quote from? Have we not taken up our civil duty of questioning the ruling hand when it has failed to protect our victims / survivors of sexual assault within our community? We are done following rules we did not write by men who do not wish to protect us.

Our liberation is bound to one another. We are not free from the chains of complacency and dishonesty until our survivors of sexual assault on this campus are allotted the justice they deserve. While our liberation is bound in one another, the truth that we speak and the strength in our voices is what I believe will allow us to achieve our demands. Until our Vice Chancellor acknowledges both his lack of transparency and Charlie Rose’s dishonorable deeds, we will not stop fighting. It’s time we #speakupsewanee. And that’s exactly what we plan to do.