

A Resolution to Be Presented at University Senate: Calling on Emory University Leadership to Codify Protections Against Overreach and Preserve Academic Freedom and Community Members' Rights.

Resolution Submission Date:

November 25, 2025

<i>Sponsor Name(s):</i>	<i>Sponsor Email(s):</i>	<i>Sponsor Positions(s)</i>
Elizabeth Brubaker	elizabeth.brubaker@emory.edu	Emory SGA Student Leader
Tyler Martinez	tyler.martinez@emory.edu	Emory SGA President
Zoe Grotjan	zoe.grotjan@emory.edu	Emory SGA Executive Vice President
Michael Krayyem	Michael.krayyem@emory.edu	Emory SGA Vice President of Student Experience/SGA Voting Representative
Asmaa Ali	Asmaa.ali@emory.edu	Emory SGA Second-Year Legislator/SGA Voting Representative
Jack Steffen	Jack.steffen@emory.edu	Oxford SGA President
Lucianna Marquez	Lucianna.marquez@emory.edu	Oxford SGA Voting Representative

Whereas, Emory University has long dedicated itself to “upholding the dignity and rights of all persons through fair treatment, honest dealing, and respect,”; *and*

Whereas, such respect includes the protection of the civil and human rights of all Emory community members, including students, staff, and faculty; *and*

Whereas, the White House and federal agencies have threatened to deprive universities of federal grant funding and other sources of support in order to coerce compliance with policies that suppress dissent, target non-citizens and marginalized students, and dictate academic programming; *and*

Whereas, these actions constitute attempts to intimidate universities into abandoning lawful and ethical efforts to foster inclusive, equitable learning environments; *and*

Whereas, [Emory University’s compliance with anti-DEI federal initiatives](#) by “discontinuing DEI programs and initiatives” raises serious concerns about future pre-emptive actions that could place members of the Emory community at risk; *and*

Whereas, Emory University’s recently adopted Open Expression Policy reaffirms the institution’s duty to protect student speech and assembly regardless of viewpoint and obligates

the University to reject external demands that conflict with its own content-neutral standards;
and

Whereas, the University Senate Open Expression Committee found that the Emory School of Medicine violated the Open Expression policy in the suspension of medical student [Umaymah Mohammed](#) and Associate Professor [Anna Kenney](#), raising concern for the University's protection of expressive activities; *and*

Whereas, Emory is currently experiencing a period of leadership transition under Interim President Sears, making it essential that University leadership demonstrate steadfast commitment to student rights, transparency, and academic integrity; *and*

Whereas, leadership transitions, while creating uncertainty, present an opportunity for Emory's shared governance bodies, including the University Senate, to ensure student and faculty voices help guide institutional responses to federal pressure; *and*

Whereas, these values and protections in this resolution are endorsed by reputable civil rights organizations, including the ACLU of Georgia and the Georgia NAACP; *and*

Whereas, the Emory Student Government Association's legislature unanimously passed [Resolution 59s1102 Calling Upon Emory University to Protect Against Federal Attacks on Community Members' Civil and Human Rights](#), showing student leadership's desire for the policy outlined in this resolution; *and*

Whereas, the aforementioned resolution directly called on the University Senate to take action in line with the students' demands; *and*

Whereas, 37 student organizations signed a [petition](#) indicating their support of the sentiments of the Student Government Association; *and*

Whereas, Emory University Undergraduate Students voted on these issues, and the results showed that from the 1,400 students who voted, 89.29% support Emory policy that prohibits staff from voluntarily sharing information with federal agencies about Emory community members' immigration status, sex and gender identity, or participation in expressive activities; *and*.

Whereas, University Leadership has not yet issued a formal response to either the resolution passed or the results of the student referendum.

Therefore, let it be,

Resolved, the University Senate calls on Interim Emory University President Sears and the Board of Trustees to employ their authority to protect Emory students, faculty, staff by prohibiting employees of Emory University from voluntarily providing information or assistance in response to a request and commitment to resist overly general requests from federal authorities or out-of-state authorities that seeks—

- a. to identify, or impose civil or criminal liability or other penalties, including termination or reduction of grant funding, upon a person or entity based on their participation in activities protected by the Emory Open Expression Policy and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution including assembly, petitioning, expression of viewpoints, and speech;
- b. to identify or apprehend a person in order to subject them to immigration detention, removal or deportation proceedings; or to prosecute a person or persons for offenses related to immigration status based on their participation in activities protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution including assembly, petitioning expression of viewpoints and speech; and
- c. to investigate the sex or gender of a student, faculty, or staff member; *and*

Resolved, the University Senate demands that the prohibition be codified in Emory University policy by the end of the academic year; *and*

Be It Further Resolved, that this body expressly resists any anticipatory obedience to federal or state directives that would undermine these principles or erode the rights and academic integrity of members of the Emory community.