

WHEREAS the Trump Administration has proposed a “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” in which “(i) access to student loans, grant programs, and federal contracts; (ii) funding for research directly or indirectly; (iii) approval of student and other visas in connection with university matriculation and instruction; and (iv) preferential treatment under the tax code” are declared to be conditional upon U.S. universities’ agreement with “the priorities of the U.S. government”;

WHEREAS the Compact poses a direct threat to academic freedom by using items (i)-(iv) as levers of control over university decision-making, affairs, and governance;

WHEREAS the Trump Administration issued its Compact to nine leading U.S. universities on October 1, 2025 and extended it to all U.S. higher education institutions on October 14, 2025;

WHEREAS seven out of the nine leading universities have publicly rejected the Compact as of October 20, 2025;

WHEREAS the American Association of Colleges and Universities released a statement on October 3, 2025 calling the Compact an “ultimatum” that threatens to “trade academic freedom for federal funding”;

WHEREAS a joint statement endorsed by the American Council on Education and 35 additional higher education associations was released on October 17, 2025 calling the Compact “a step in the wrong direction” that “would hinder, not safeguard, freedom of expression for all points of view”;

WHEREAS the Compact has the potential to directly affect the experience of Emory Community members (including faculty, staff, and students) for, by example, changing the demographic composition of student cohorts or limiting accessibility to gender-neutral bathrooms;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Emory University Senate commends the decision of those institutions that have rejected the compact and urges the Emory University Administration to reject the Compact in its entirety.