

Interinstitutional Faculty Senate of Oregon

Resolution Opposing the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education”

Adopted by the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate – November 14, 2025

Whereas, the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS) represents the elected faculty governance bodies of Oregon’s eight public universities and is charged to articulate faculty perspectives on statewide academic policy and shared governance in Oregon; and

Whereas, Oregon’s public universities advance the public good through independent research, teaching, and service grounded in academic freedom, shared governance, and constitutionally protected free expression; and

Whereas, the Trump administration’s “[Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education](#)” conditions federal research and institutional funding on political and ideological certifications that would politicize academic functions, constrain faculty autonomy, and erode institutional independence; and

Whereas, the compact’s mandates intrude upon faculty prerogatives and shared governance norms, posing threats to academic freedom, intellectual integrity, nondiscrimination, and internationalization priorities; and

Whereas, recent federal actions have included censorship pressures on curricula and speech, politically motivated detentions or deportations of scholars and students, and attempts to surveil academic activities through new committees—thereby chilling scholarly inquiry and undermining due process; and

Whereas, faculty senates at peer institutions, including the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, have rejected the compact as antithetical to university missions, institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and constitutional rights; and

Whereas, the [University of Oregon Senate](#) has advanced nationwide measures to provide coordinated resistance to political interference in higher education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Interinstitutional Faculty Senate rejects the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” and any successor instruments that condition federal support on political or ideological compliance.
2. The IFS calls upon the presidents and governing boards of Oregon’s public universities to decline to sign or implement the compact and to affirm that academic policy, curricula, research agendas, admissions standards, and faculty governance are set through established institutional processes, not federal political directives.
3. The IFS reaffirms academic freedom, freedom of expression, nondiscrimination, and shared governance as foundational to Oregon’s public universities, and rejects mandates that impose curricular censorship, ideological tests, or surveillance regimes inconsistent with due process and constitutional protections.
4. The IFS urges each university’s faculty senate to endorse this resolution opposing the compact and to coordinate through the IFS strategies that protect academic independence across the system.
5. The IFS endorses collaboration among Oregon universities and with national peers to explore and, where appropriate, join or establish a [Mutual Academic Defense Compact](#) to provide shared legal, financial, and strategic support in response to political or legal infringements on higher education.
6. The IFS directs its Executive Committee to convey this resolution to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), the Governor, Oregon’s congressional delegation, and relevant accrediting and professional bodies, affirming Oregon’s unified commitment to institutional autonomy and the independent pursuit of knowledge.