

Interinstitutional Faculty Senate of Oregon

Resolution in Support of Public Universities in the State of Oregon

Date: May 16, 2025

1.1 Whereas recent and escalating actions by federal governmental bodies pose a significant threat to the foundational principles of American higher education, including the autonomy of university governance, the integrity of scientific research, and the protection of free speech; and

1.2 Whereas the federal government has targeted individual institutions with legal, financial, and political incursion designed to undermine their public mission, silence dissenting voices, and/or exert improper control over academic inquiry; and

1.3 Whereas the federal government is actively censoring curricula, undermining due process, targeting scholars and students, and carrying out politically motivated detentions; and

1.4 Whereas this has already resulted in the creation of oversight committees and offices to surveil intellectual and academic activities; and

1.5 Whereas the public universities in the state of Oregon hold a longstanding tradition of academic collaboration, research excellence, and commitment to democratic values and shared governance; and

1.6 Whereas four presidents of Oregon's public universities signed the national [A Call for Constructive Engagement](#) issued by the American Association of Colleges and Universities and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, signaling a shared commitment to democratic principles and the public mission of higher education; and

1.7 Whereas in light of increasing public scrutiny and political pressures on Oregon's public universities, this resolution seeks to build upon such leadership through collective efforts to protect academic freedom and defend the public mission of Oregon institutions; and

1.8 Whereas the preservation of one institution's integrity is the concern of all, and an infringement against one member university in the State of Oregon shall be considered an infringement against all; and

1.9 Whereas the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate consists of elected faculty from all public institutions of higher education in the State of Oregon.

2.1 Be it therefore resolved that the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate calls on the presidents of Oregon's public universities to demonstrate courageous leadership not only in words but through concrete, material actions that advance equity, protect academic freedom, strengthen shared governance, and invest in the faculty, staff, and students who are the foundation of public higher education.

2.2 Be it further resolved that the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate urges the Governor of Oregon and the Oregon Legislature to demonstrate a sustained commitment to the state's public universities by materially supporting their core academic missions, safeguarding academic freedom, and investing in the long-term vitality of public higher education as a public good essential to Oregon's future.