

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

WHEREAS the Trump administration has extended its offer of a “[Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education](#)” to all institutions of higher education in the United States;

WHEREAS this “Compact” offers colleges and universities preferential consideration for federal funding in exchange for sweeping concessions on academic freedom, institutional integrity, scholarly diversity, and autonomous decision-making that will cede control in these areas to the federal government;

WHEREAS intellectual autonomy is the foundational principle allowing institutions of higher education to create meaningful curricula, produce valuable research, promote innovation, uphold the principles of open inquiry and free speech, and educate future leaders without undue external interference, and surrendering this autonomy negates the civic benefit of higher education to a democratic society and compromises our essential values;

WHEREAS we have devoted our professional lives to “excellence in higher education,” and are certain that it cannot be found in capitulation to a compact that shackles the independence, creativity, and pursuit of truth that has enabled American universities—some of the greatest centers of learning in the world—to benefit society;

WHEREAS this compact has been decisively rejected by [seven of the nine](#) universities to which it was initially offered (with none accepting it), and by the [American Association of University Professors](#), the [American Association of Colleges and Universities](#), the [American Council on Education](#), the [Association of Governing Boards](#), and [numerous university Senates](#);

WHEREAS we make progress not by abandoning our principles but by upholding them, and must publicly stand together in order to do so;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair State University Senate condemns this compact, as well as any similar proposal compromising the mission, values, and independence of the university.