

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ANY POTENTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS on October 1, 2025, the U.S. Presidential administration delivered to nine institutions a *Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education*, that conditions the distribution of federal funding on the acceptance of government-mandated institutional ideological policies; and

WHEREAS, this compact paradoxically demands "institutional neutrality" whilst requiring affirmative representation of clearly specific ideological viewpoints and threatening those with differing perspectives, making it both contradictory and unenforceable; and

WHEREAS, the compact would mandate "empirical assessments" of ideological viewpoints among faculty, students, and staff, effectively instituting political litmus tests that violate academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, per the 1967 Kalven Report, which establishes that universities must speak when their core mission is threatened, and the fundamental mission of higher education—knowledge production, student education, and service to society—is currently at risk; and

WHEREAS, numerous higher education associations and faculty governance bodies nationwide have opposed the current Compact as a threat to institutional autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the Compact is part of broader federal attempts to control higher education's functions and limit academic freedom, including investigations into the University of Washington; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly Executive Council urges University administration and Board of Regents to reject any agreement with the U.S. Federal government administration's *Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education* or any similar agreement, contract, or arrangement that:

- Conditions the distribution of federal funding on the adoption of specific, government-determined ideological perspectives in hiring, curriculum, or programming, violating merit-based funding principles;
- Replaces scientific consensus with ideology on issues including biological sex, gender identity, and climate change;
- Mandates speech policies beyond existing legal requirements;
- Threatens employment or immigration status based on legally-protected speech;
- Requires viewpoint quotas or government-determined "ideological balance" within academic units, violating academic freedom;
- Interferes with faculty's professional judgment in evaluating student work;
- Mandates discriminatory tuition policies based on field of study;

- Requires disclosure of student information beyond existing legal requirements; or
- Otherwise compromise academic freedom, institutional autonomy, or professional expertise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Washington Tacoma Faculty Assembly Executive Council calls for transparent shared governance including:

- Established processes for meaningful faculty input before responding to federal proposals; and
- Consultation with faculty leadership before entering agreements affecting academic programs or policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive Council urges joining other institutions in collective opposition to federal intrusion into academic matters, consistent with the Faculty Senate's April 2025 *Resolution supporting a Mutual Academic Defense Compact*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive Council affirms that federal research funding should be allocated through competitive, peer-reviewed processes based on intellectual merit, not ideological compliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Executive Council stands in solidarity with faculty at all institutions facing governmental pressure to compromise academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and professional standards.

For consideration by: Andrea L. Hill, PhD, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice
November 14, 2025

Approved: UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly Executive Council
November 24, 2025