

SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly Resolution Opposing the McMahon-Mailman Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education

WHEREAS the “[Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education](#)” offers colleges and universities preferential consideration for federal funding in exchange for significant concessions in academic freedom, institutional integrity, scholarly diversity, and autonomous decision-making that will cede control in these areas to the federal government; and

WHEREAS academic freedom and scholarly diversity are foundational principles of institutions of higher learning: creating meaningful curricula, producing valuable research, promoting innovation, upholding the principles of open inquiry and free speech, and educating future leaders without undue external interference. As the “Compact” states, higher education in the United States, “represents a key strategic benefit for our nation;” surrendering autonomy squanders that extraordinary benefit and compromises our essential values; and

WHEREAS we, too, seek “excellence in higher education” as we work to bring our actions ever closer to these values. However, excellence is not found in capitulation to a “Compact” that purports to promote academic excellence but instead shackles the academic freedom, institutional integrity, and scholarly diversity that have enabled American universities to become some of the best centers of learning in the world and to provide enormous benefits to society. We make progress not by abandoning our principles but by upholding them. The “Compact” erodes the foundation on which higher education in the United States is built; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY Oswego encourages our campus president to reject this “Compact” as well as any similar proposal compromising the mission, values, and independence of the university.

Universities Opposing Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education

[SUNY UFS](#)

[University of Pennsylvania](#)

[University of Arizona](#)

[Vanderbilt University](#)

[University of Virginia](#)

[University of Southern California](#)