



UNC SYSTEM FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Resolution Responding to the February 5, 2025 Memorandum Regarding Federal Contracting Compliance

Whereas: The core mission of the [University of North Carolina System](#) is “to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and society” and academic freedom protects all aspects of this mission, including instruction, the research enterprise, service, extension, and community outreach;

Whereas: In the *UNC Policy Manual* section “Maintaining Academic Freedom” ([300.8.5](#)) the Board of Governors reaffirms that “academic freedom is a prerequisite to maintaining and strengthening a world-class university” and that “the University of North Carolina shall therefore take no action that would limit the right of academic freedom in its faculty’s pursuit of teaching, research, and service”;

Whereas: Faculty, who are trained at the highest level of our disciplines, collaborate within our departments, universities, and communities to design and lead programs—including defining the core curriculum and graduation requirements—to ensure our students’ growth and success;

Whereas: Academic freedom allows students to study the widest array of viewpoints and perspectives, fostering an environment where they can develop the skills of critical thinking, communicating across differences, and evaluating the quality of ideas and information—skills that are critical to our students’ success;

Whereas: Academic freedom also protects research, innovation, and extension, which support health and economic prosperity across our state and nation, making it critical to the success of faculty, students, and the people of North Carolina;

Whereas: President Donald J. Trump’s Executive Order “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity” includes an exception for federally funded institutions of higher education, stating: “This order does not prohibit persons teaching at a Federally funded institution of higher education as part of a larger course of academic instruction from advocating for, endorsing, or promoting the...employment or contracting practices prohibited by this order”;

Whereas: Abiding by the key principles of academic freedom and shared governance protects and serves the mission of the UNC System, our seventeen institutions, our students, and the people of North Carolina;

Whereas: The faculty and leadership of the UNC System should continue to utilize the shared governance systems, including established process and precedent to ensure academic freedom;

Therefore, let it be resolved: The faculty of the UNC System advises the University of North Carolina’s leaders that the suspension of core and program requirements as described in the memorandum of 5 February 2025 “Regarding Federal Contracting Compliance” is an unnecessary and intolerable breach of the principle of academic freedom and deeply undermines the mission of the University of North Carolina and its seventeen constituent institutions to serve the people of our state.