

Calling on UNC-CH Faculty Council to Vote on a Resolution vs the Compact by Dec 5th

Academic Freedom means that faculty should choose *what* and *how* to teach, both inside and outside the classroom, and that their research and scholarship should not be limited by outside interests. Academic Freedom is far more than an individual instructor's right— it is a collective matter. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has said consistently since 1940 that “The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.”

Practically, this means faculty should decide on research priorities, design courses or academic programs, and reorganize academic units or start new schools. Curricula and scholarship should not be dictated by university administrators, a board of trustees, politicians or donors. When outsiders try to control university curriculum or scholarship, they violate academic freedom of the faculty *and* deprive students from learning the latest in their field of study. This dilutes education, undermines the value of degrees, and erodes the integrity of the university.

In an unprecedented move, the President and his administration are now attempting to sidestep federal law by demanding that universities accept a “Compact for Higher Education”, in return for preferential treatment for federal research and other funding. The Compact demands universities turn their backs on their most cherished values.

To accept the Compact would make University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill vacate our position among the top five public universities nationally. The Compact undermines campus and UNC System policy¹ and is antithetical to our mission to “invest our knowledge and resources to enhance access to learning and to foster the success and prosperity of each rising generation”.

Agreeing to the Compact means abandoning UNC-CH research standing along with the immense educational, training, job creation, and knowledge generation that we espouse in our “unwavering commitment to excellence as one of the world's great research universities”.

As faculty, we must take action to reaffirm our dedication to students and our role as public educators in North Carolina. We call on the Faculty Council to pass a **resolution to reject the Compact no later than Dec 5th Faculty Council meeting**.

Our students have organized against the Compact with a 500-person petition led by Sunrise UNC and The Coalition for Carolina has secured over 1600 signatures in a similar petition. Faculty at our peer public institutions—the University of Texas and the University of Virginia—have passed resolutions firmly opposing the Compact. To date, no university has accepted, and 7 out of 10 have outright rejected it.

We ask Chancellor Lee Roberts the following question: **Will you publicly commit to UNC-CH rejecting the Compact for Higher Education?**

In addition to raising this verbally at the Nov 7th meeting, AAUP members call on The Faculty Council of UNC-CH to vote no later than Dec 5th for a resolution calling for administrators at the highest level to reject the Compact. This is an urgent matter.

¹ - **UNC-CH Trustee Policy** (Section 1); **UNC System Policy Manual** (Chapter 6, Sections 600-602)