

Adopted UMBC Faculty Senate 5/19/2025

**THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL ACADEMIC DEFENSE COMPACTS IN  
DEFENSE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREE EXPRESSION, INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY,  
AND THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE**

Presented to the Faculty Senate  
UMBC  
May 13, 2025

Resolution to Establish Mutual Academic Defense Compacts in Defense of Academic Freedom, Free Expression, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise

**Whereas**, escalating actions by governmental bodies threaten foundational principles of American higher education, including the autonomy of university governance, the integrity of scientific research, and the protection of the freedoms of inquiry, speech, and association;

**Whereas**, political actors have targeted individual institutions with legal, financial, and political incursions designed to undermine their public mission, silence dissenting voices, and exert unlawful control over academic inquiry;

**Whereas**, governmental actors have signaled a willingness to censor curricula, restrict inquiry, target scholars and students, and carry out politically motivated detentions;

**Whereas**, America's Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) represent a longstanding tradition of academic collaboration, research excellence, and commitment to democratic values and shared governance;

**Whereas**, these nearly 250 APLU institutions represent more than one million faculty and staff members and 6.6 million undergraduate and graduate students;

**Whereas**, institutions of higher education in the state of Maryland—public and private, large and small—share a longstanding commitment to academic freedom, democratic governance, civic responsibility, and the pursuit of knowledge for the public good;

**Whereas**, Maryland is home to a diverse and nationally respected higher education ecosystem that serves hundreds of thousands of students and employs tens of thousands of educators, researchers, and staff whose work supports innovation, critical inquiry, social mobility, and community engagement;

**Whereas**, the preservation of one institution's integrity is the concern of all, and an infringement against one institution shall be considered an infringement against all;

**Be it resolved that**, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Faculty Senate urges the President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, to formally join the Public and Land-Grant University Mutual Academic Defense Compact (PLUMADC) started by the University of Massachusetts Amherst;

**Be it further resolved that**, the Faculty Senate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Faculty Senate urges the President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, to help establish a Maryland Higher Education Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MHEMADC) among public and private colleges and universities across the state that would like to participate;

**Be it further resolved that**, under these compacts, participating institutions shall commit meaningful support—financial, legal, organizational, and/or strategic—to a shared or distributed defense infrastructure designed to respond immediately and collectively to attacks by the governmental actors on any member institution;

**Be it further resolved that**, these compacts shall facilitate the mobilization of institutional resources—including legal counsel, governance experts, public affairs professionals, faculty governance leaders, research capacity, and media relations—to coordinate a unified and robust response, including but not limited to:

- Legal representation and, where appropriate, countersuit actions;
- Public communication strategies to counter misinformation and defend academic principles;
- Filing of amicus briefs, publication of expert testimony, and other legal interventions;
- Legislative advocacy and coordinated policy engagement at the state and federal levels;
- The development of collaborative strategies and frameworks to diversify funding streams beyond the federal government; and
- Rapid-response research and public-education initiatives;

**Be it further resolved that**, this resolution be transmitted to the leadership of all Public and Land-Grant Universities across the nation and all institutions of higher education in the state of Maryland as well as their shared governance bodies;

**Be it finally resolved that**, the President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland take leading roles in convening summits of faculty and administration

leaders to initiate the implementation of these Compacts and affirm the collective commitment to defend academic freedom, free expression, institutional autonomy, and the public mission of higher education in the state.

**MOTION: That the Faculty Senate adopt the Resolution to Establish Mutual Academic Defense Compacts in Defense of Academic Freedom, Free Expression, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise.**