

Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for Colorado Institutions of Higher Education to Defend Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise¹

Whereas, politically motivated actions by federal bodies pose a significant threat to the foundational principles of American higher education, including the protection of free speech, the autonomy of university governance, and the integrity of scientific research;

Whereas, the federal administration and aligned political actors have targeted individual institutions with legal, financial, and political sanctions designed to undermine their public mission, silence dissenting voices, and/or exert improper control over academic inquiry;

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

Whereas, the Faculty Assembly of the University of Colorado Boulder, AAUP CU Boulder chapter, AAUP UC Colorado Springs chapter, UCW Colorado, and CWA 7799 have called for establishing a Mutual Academic Defense Compact;

Be it resolved that, the Faculty Council of the University of Colorado urges the President and Board of Regents of the University of Colorado to formally endorse and help establish a Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC) among all Colorado institutions of higher education, including the Community College System as well as regional partners;

Be it further resolved that, under this compact, all participating institutions shall commit meaningful funding to a shared or distributed defense fund. This fund shall be used to provide immediate and strategic support to any member institution under direct political or legal attack;

Be it further resolved that, participating institutions shall make available, at the request of the institution under direct political infringement, the services of their legal counsel, governance experts, and public affairs offices to coordinate a unified and vigorous response, including but not limited to: Legal representation and countersuit actions; strategic public communication; amicus briefs and expert testimony; legislative advocacy and coalition-building; related topical research as needed.

Be it finally resolved that, this resolution be transmitted to the leadership of all Colorado institutions of higher education and their respective governing boards and shared governance bodies, and that the President of the University of Colorado System take a leading role in convening a summit of the legal leadership of Colorado institutions of higher education to initiate the implementation of this Compact.

¹This document is based on the resolution recently passed by the faculty senates of Rutgers University, Michigan State University, Indiana University, University of Nebraska Lincoln, and

other members of the “Big Ten.”