

1 UNITED ACADEMICS PROPOSAL

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3 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

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5 **Preamble.** Academic freedom has been defined and codified in the 1940 Statement of Principles  
6 on Academic Freedom and Tenure formulated by the American Association of University  
7 Professors and the Association of American Colleges (now the American Association of  
8 Colleges and Universities). The Statement was subsequently endorsed by over 240 scholarly  
9 societies and expanded to include the 1970 Interpretive Comments. The Parties to this  
10 agreement unconditionally endorse the body of law contained in these AAUP documents.

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12 United Academics and the Administration agree that academic freedom is essential to the  
13 mission of the university. The university serves the common good through teaching, research,  
14 outreach, engagement, and service. The fulfillment of these functions rests upon the preservation  
15 of academic freedom. A faculty member shall be free, without fear of institutional censorship,  
16 reprisal, or discipline, to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of  
17 research, scholarship, and creative expression, and to speak freely on all matters of university  
18 governance.

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20 United Academics and the Administration therefore affirm that academic freedom is a right  
21 protected by this Agreement in addition to faculty members’ constitutionally protected freedom  
22 of expression and is fundamental to faculty members’ responsibility to seek and to state truth as  
23 they see it. The Administration and its representatives shall protect any faculty member against  
24 influences, from within or without the university, which would restrict the faculty member in the  
25 exercise of their academic freedom.

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27 **Section 1. Teaching and Research.** Faculty members shall have the freedom to:

- 28 a. Teach and engage, both in and outside of the classroom. Faculty members must  
29 be able to disseminate the results of their own research and that of others to  
30 students, the public, and others in their profession and to train students to think  
31 about these results for themselves. Such training often occurs in an atmosphere  
32 of controversy that, so long as it remains in a broad sense educationally relevant,  
33 actively assists students in mastering the subject and appreciating its  
34 significance.
- 35 b. Select instructional materials and define course content, subject to an academic  
36 unit’s ordinary control over curriculum. The Faculty Senate must approve  
37 written agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with curricular  
38 impact before the Administration may enter into such agreements with external  
39 entities.
- 40 c. Determine grades. The grade a faculty member determines for a student’s  
41 performance shall not be changed without the faculty member’s consent, except

1 when faculty members with expertise in the course material involved establish  
2 that either:

- 3 i. There was discrimination against a student in determining the grade or the grade was  
4 imposed without proper authority; or
- 5 ii. The faculty member's assessment of the student's performance is not supported by an  
6 accepted pedagogical practice or was substantially inconsistent with the basis for  
7 evaluation that the faculty member specified for the course.
- 8 d. Conduct research and creative work and publish, display, or otherwise disseminate the  
9 results.

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11 **Section 2. Service.** Faculty members shall have the freedom to:

- 12 a. Participate in the system of shared governance and seek to contribute to the functioning of  
13 their academic unit and the university.
- 14 b. Discuss and critique academic policy, university governance, or other matters pertaining  
15 to the health of the university.

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17 **Section 3. Extramural Expression.** As to matters outside the area of the faculty member's  
18 scholarly interest, the faculty member has the right to enjoy the same freedoms as other individuals,  
19 including political rights and privileges, without fear of institutional censorship, reprisal, or  
20 discipline.

21 When faculty members speak or write as members of the public, they should not indicate that  
22 they are speaking for the university. They may identify their university affiliation so long as no  
23 university sponsorship or endorsement is stated or implied.