



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

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October 3, 2025

James B. Milliken
President, University of California

Re: Statement from the UC Academic Council Regarding any Potential
Agreement Between the University and the Federal Government

Dear President Milliken,

On behalf of the [Academic Council](#), I am forwarding the attached statement regarding the federal government's demand letter to UCLA. The statement affirms the Council's strong opposition to any agreement that would compromise the University of California's institutional autonomy and academic freedom and underscores the Academic Senate's expectation of meaningful participation in any discussions concerning a potential settlement.

The Academic Council unanimously endorsed this statement. We respectfully request that you share it with the Board of Regents as they consider the University's response to this matter.

The Academic Council stands ready to collaborate with you and the Regents to defend UC's mission and values at this critical moment.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Assembly of the Academic Senate
Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Newman
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom
General Counsel Robinson
Senior Vice President Turner

Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall
Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin



UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA Academic
Senate

**STATEMENT FROM THE UC ACADEMIC COUNCIL REGARDING ANY POTENTIAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

With unanimous resolve, the Academic Council makes the following statement regarding the demand letter issued to UCLA by the federal government. We understand that the UC Office of the President has expressed a willingness to engage the federal government in discussion. Ostensibly prompted by alleged Title VI violations, the government's investigation and actions against UCLA must now be understood as part of a systematic and unprecedented campaign to align universities with the politics and perspectives of the Trump administration. At stake is not only our institutional autonomy but the integrity of higher education itself.

Press reports—and the examples of the Brown and Columbia agreements—suggest that the federal government is seeking sweeping concessions from UCLA and the UC that could cede control of core university functions to the Trump administration. There can be no clearer attack on academic freedom than an attempt to dictate curricular content, research priorities, hiring decisions, and admissions standards. While the financial penalties threatened by the federal government would in effect radically curtail UC's future, acquiescing in the idea that academic freedom, governance, and mission are negotiable would be equally ruinous.

The Academic Council therefore calls on the Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to unequivocally reject governmental demands that compromise institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

The Academic Council further calls on the Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to formally include the Senate in discussions concerning the terms and parameters of any proposed settlement agreement. In this moment of institutional risk, the principle and practice of shared governance must not only be recognized, but actively upheld.

The Academic Council stands ready to work collaboratively with the administration to defend the University of California and ensure its future as a self-governing, public trust.

Adopted by the Academic Council on October 3, 2025