

Resolution of the Faculty of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) in Support of the Core Mission and Values of Higher Education in the United States of America

WHEREAS, higher education in the United States has for over three centuries been a critical contributor to the public good through the advancement of knowledge, leadership, and cultural, civic, and economic development, and this is true of both private and public institutions;

WHEREAS, higher education in the United States also contributes to social mobility in ways that benefit individuals from all backgrounds;

WHEREAS, higher education's mission to serve the public good and be an engine for social mobility requires the recognition that academic research and scholarly expertise not only directly advance knowledge in the public sphere but are also a condition of excellent teaching, ensuring that the US workforce of the future remains globally competitive;

WHEREAS, higher education's mission to serve the public good and be an engine for social mobility also requires inclusive, tolerant, and respectful working and learning environments, ensuring opportunities for all;

WHEREAS, changes in federal policy threaten to dismantle the conditions, the outcomes, and the core values and mission of higher education, at great detriment to the public at large and the US's international reputation, as well as to the success and well-being of students and employees from all backgrounds;

WHEREAS, the faculty of the Big Ten Academic Alliance stand united in opposing efforts that would undermine the fundamental mission and values of higher education; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the faculty of the undersigned members of the Big Ten Alliance:

1. Affirm that public and private universities serve the public good through teaching, research, and student services that contribute to national and global excellence;
2. Affirm that academic scholarship and research, through rigorous peer review and professional accreditation, leads to evidence-based expertise, not partisan viewpoints;
3. Support the protection of academic freedom, free speech, and the right to peaceful protest;
4. Agree with the Department of Education that discrimination based on race, color, or national origin is reprehensible;
5. Affirm that one critical pathway to reducing discrimination in higher education is through work focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion;
6. Stand in solidarity with faculty who are harassed because they adhere to recognized professional standards and ethical practices in their fields;
7. Support staff and administrators whose dedication to the institution's mission is vital to our collective success;
8. Call upon faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community partners of the Big Ten alliance to unite in defense of the core mission, values, and academic freedoms of our universities;

9. Affirm the essential role of shared governance in maintaining the integrity of our universities, especially in times of crisis when transparency and collaboration are the conditions of our survival;
10. Commit to the continued strengthening of shared governance processes within the Big Ten Alliance.ⁱ

ⁱ This resolution was inspired by the 2/19/25 [resolution](#) passed by the Faculty Senate of the University of Virginia, “Resolution on External Challenges to Faculty Roles and Responsibilities.”