

###FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE###

Contact: Laura Goldblatt  
lgoldblatt@gmail.com  
609-915-6132

Walt Heinecke  
waltheinecke@hotmail.com  
434-825-1896

UVA AND 8 OTHER UNIVERSITIES PLAN A DAY OF ACTION RALLY  
AGAINST PRESIDENT TRUMP'S "COMPACT" FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
A NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION  
THIS FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 2025

**CHARLOTTESVILLE/UVA PRESS CONFERENCE, RALLY AND MARCH**

Who: UVA students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Charlottesville community

**When: Press conference at 11:15 am on October 17th, 2025; Rally at noon**

Where: UVA Rotunda, Lawn side

What: Press conference, rally, and march against the Trump administration's "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" as part of a national day of action against the "Compact". Co-sponsored by AAUP-UVA, United Campus Workers-UVA, UVA General Faculty Council, Jewish Voice for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine, National Campus Jewish Alliance.

This Friday, October 17th at 12 pm, University of Virginia students, faculty, staff, alumni and Charlottesville community will gather at UVA's Rotunda to express strong opposition to signing or negotiating the Trump Administration's "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education."

**NATIONAL PROTEST PLANS**

The action is part of a coordinated set of events being hosted at all nine schools that first received the document from the Department of Education on October 1st. As the Trump Administration has now offered the "Compact" to all higher education institutions in the United States, the University of Virginia community intends to set a strong example of resistance, using its collective voice to urge institutional leaders not to buckle to the "Compact"'s unconstitutional and tyrannical demands.

All nine schools that first received the "Compact" plan to join the National Day of Action, including the University of Arizona, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California,

the University of Texas, and Vanderbilt University. MIT has already announced that they will not sign.

*Since receiving the missive, [the UVA Faculty Senate](#), the American Association of University Professors at UVA, General Faculty Council, faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, faculty in the School of Nursing, faculty at the School of Education and Human Development, Student Council, and Wahoos4UVA, a coalition of some 14,000 influential alumni, have all urged the UVa Board of Visitors and interim President Paul Mahoney to reject the “Compact” without any further negotiation with the Trump Administration.*

### **STUDENT LEADERS HAVE JOINED THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**

Student council leaders at seven of the nine universities [have resolved to reject the compact](#). This unanimous response to the “Compact” leaves little doubt where students, faculty, and staff at UVA and the other institutions stand: rather than capitulation, they assert that robust academic freedom, institutional independence, and solidarity amongst institutions is the answer to tyranny. Through their clarity of purpose and courage, they stand against the growing tide of authoritarianism, using their voices and actions to stiffen their university administrators’ spines.

### **UVA VOICES UNITED IN OPPOSITION**

On Friday, members of a broad coalition including the AAUP-UVA, United Campus Workers-UVA, Concerned Faculty at UVA, General Faculty Council, Shannon’s Way, Jewish Voice for Peace, the National Campus Jewish Alliance-UVA, Students for Justice in Palestine-UVA, Indivisible Charlottesville, and other groups will gather on the Lawn for a press conference at 11:15 am. The rally will begin at the Rotunda at noon. Following the rally, participants will march to Madison Hall to deliver a packet of the statements against the “Compact” generated by UVA students, faculty, staff, and alumni to Interim President Mahoney, giving him a material instantiation of his constituents’ clear opposition to the “Compact.

The rally will position academic freedom and free speech as an enduring value that faculty, students, and staff claim continues to govern their actions and ensures their intellectual and political independence from outside interference. In rallying, the UVA community will stand in solidarity with the communities at the eight other schools that first received the “Compact,” collectively rejecting claims of ideological homogeneity and hostility to a diversity of ideas levied by the Trump Administration. Rather, they will insist that *Thomas Jefferson’s call to pursue the truth* “[wherever it may lead](#)” continues to define the University of Virginia and indeed higher education in the United States, and that the commitment to intellectual truth, rather than political fealty, serves as the guiding principle of academic excellence.