

April 25, 2025

Jon Hale, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee  
Office of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate (MC 348)  
228 English Building, MC-461  
608 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Jon:

At its meeting on April 24, 2025, the UIC Senate approved a motion to provide support of the recommendation that the UIUC Faculty Senate join the Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise and notify the UIUC Senate through a letter. The motion carried with one audible no vote and nine abstentions.

The UIC Senate also approved the attached Resolution to Endorse the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois System Joining the Mutual Defense Compact for the Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise. The motion carried with one audible no vote and seven abstentions.

Sincerely,



Sandra De Groote, Professor and  
Secretary, UIC Senate and Chair, UIC Senate Executive Committee

cc: Jenny Roether, Director of the Office of the Senate and Clerk of the Senate

Resolution to Endorse the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the  
University of Illinois System Joining the Mutual Defense Compact for the  
Universities of the Big Ten Academic Alliance in Defense of Academic Freedom,  
Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise

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

**Whereas**, the Trump administration and aligned political actors have signaled a willingness to target individual institutions with legal, financial, and political incursion designed to undermine their public mission, silence dissenting voices, and/or exert improper control over academic inquiry;

**Whereas**, the Big Ten Academic Alliance represents not only athletic competition but also a longstanding tradition of academic collaboration, research excellence, and commitment to democratic values and shared governance;

**Whereas**, the Big Ten Academic Alliance includes 18 universities with thousands of instructors serving over 600,000 students;

**Whereas**, the preservation of one institution's integrity is the concern of all, and an infringement against one member university of the Big Ten shall be considered an infringement against all;

**Whereas**, the University of Illinois Chicago is a sister institution of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign;

**Whereas**, adverse actions against any university in the University of Illinois System will have a negative impact on all universities of the University of Illinois System;

**Be it resolved that**, the University of Illinois Chicago Senate urges the President of the University of Illinois System and the Chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to join a Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC) among all members of the Big Ten Academic Alliance.