

Ad hoc FS Social Justice Committee

Fall 2025 Report

FS Justin Bendell, Chair

Three initiative in Fall 2025

- A list of recommended characteristics for the next UNM leaders
- Endorsee of the Academic Freedom Working Group's open letter
- Co-drafted a FS Joint Resolution with CNM to be voted on in January 2026

Created a list of recommended characteristics for UNM leadership candidate searches*

* see *link in chat*

Traits

- uphold UNM's goals and values
- hold UNM's leadership accountable to the many communities that make up our Lobo pack.

Six categories:

1. Visionary Stewardship of Academic Excellence and Long-term planning
2. Academic Integrity and Vision
3. Transparent and Relational Leadership
4. Organizational and Operational Effectiveness
5. Strong Commitment to Faculty Development
6. Commitment to Equity, Advocacy, and Visionary Resource Stewardship

Academic Freedom Working Group's Open Letter

Endorsed by:

- United Academics of UNM (UA-UNM)
- United Graduate Workers of UNM (UGW-UE)
- UNM for Justice in Palestine (UNM4JP)
- UNM Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee
- UNM-Valencia Faculty Assembly

Published in *The Daily Lobo*

<https://www.dailylobo.com/article/2025/11/letter-to-the-editor-major-unm-organizations-call-for-administration-to-do-more-to-protect-academic-freedom>

The letter, in short:

This attack on academic freedom is part of a broader assault on higher education, one that puts real people at risk for doing the work they were hired to do. The pressure from federal investigations and funding cuts has contributed to a growing culture of fear, one where academics are wary to speak out and voice their concerns. But silence is not going to save us. . .

As always, the antidote to silence is solidarity. It is incumbent upon all faculty to stand against any attempts to weaken academic freedom. Together, we call on the UNM administration to join us in a participatory process, one that ensures robust protection of academic freedom for all UNM faculty.

Asks that the UNM Administration

- Refuse to provide the names of or information about UNM faculty, students or staff to Federal requests, unless compelled to do so by the courts
- Commit to a participatory process with faculty and students to revise free speech policies, especially the restrictive time, place and manner policies
- Support robust academic freedom policies in the faculty and graduate worker collective bargaining agreements and bolster academic freedom by strengthening paths to permanency for part-time faculty.

If you are interested in signing the letter, *the link is in the chat.*

Joint Resolution Opposing the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education"

- Co-written by CNM and UNM Faculty Senators
- In Spring 2025, CNM & UNM Faculty Senates both passed Resolutions in favor of joining a Mutual Academic Defense Compact
- The Project 2025 inspired “Compact for Academic Excellence” makes access to federal funding conditional on the acceptance of government-prescribed institutional policies that will harm faculty and students.
- An informal offer to join this “Compact” has been extended to all institutions of higher education in the United States;
- The resolution is an act of intra-campus coordination

Re: Compact

The *American Association of University Professors* (AAUP) and *American Federation of Teachers* (AFT) have called on all colleges and universities to reject the compact, calling it "preferential treatment . . . in exchange for allegiance to a partisan ideological agenda"¹

¹ <https://www.aaup.org/news/universities-must-reject-trump-admin-loyalty-oath-compacts>

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Central New Mexico Community College Faculty Senate and the University of New Mexico Faculty Senate firmly oppose the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" as written, and call upon campus administrations to also reject this Compact outright as well as any similar proposal compromising the core values and independence of our institutions.

We ask that you please **review the Resolution** (*linked in the chat*) before our January 2026 meeting.

UNM & CNM faculty senates will be voting on it in late January. Passing it will send a clear signal to other colleges that cross-campus organization is possible.