



Emory Faculty Council

Draft minutes

October 21, 2025

3:00 – 5:00 pm EDT

Attendees: Noelle McAfee, Jodie Guest, George Shepherd, Lisa Parker, Richard Castillo, Deepa Das Acevedo, Hashem Dezhbakhsh, Pearl Dowe, Dabney Evans, Sarah Fankhauser, Caroline Fohlin, Aminah Hasan-Birdwell, Emmanuel Lartey, Jeffrey Lichtman, Lanny Liebeskind, Sean Meighoo, Carlos Moreno, Kajal Patel, Mathew Pinson, Usha Rackliffe, Tom Rogers, Tracie Rosser, Lars Ruthotto, Eri Saikawa, Andrew Sherrill, Harold Simon, Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Sasha Volokh, Kurt Warncke, Jessica Wells, Melissa Williams

Guests: Jeffery Staton, Christopher Rodgers, Frank Minja, Monica Parker, Cindy Powell, Kathryn Yount, Deborah Mook, Ghada Farhat, Daniel Weissman, David Schuster, Siya Kumar Albert Giovanazzi, Ellie Fivas

Call to order and opening remarks by Faculty Council Chair Noëlle McAfee

Consent Agenda (September meeting minutes) approved

Update from Lanny Liebeskind, Interim Provost on new provost taking office November 1 and developments at Emory under the provost's office.

Motion passed on open expression:

Whereas the Emory University Senate's Committee for Open Expression has found that the School of Medicine has violated Emory's Open Expression Policy 8.14 on at least three different occasions, the University Senate calls on Interim President Sears and the leadership of all units, including the School of Medicine, to follow university policies, namely open expression policy 8.14, and to reconsider in light of the policy recent disciplinary actions against faculty and students.

Motion passed on the compact

WHEREAS the Trump Administration has proposed a "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" in which "(i) access to student loans, grant programs, and federal contracts; (ii) funding for research directly or indirectly; (iii) approval of student and other visas in connection with university matriculation and instruction; and (iv) preferential treatment under the tax code" are declared to be conditional upon U.S. universities' agreement with "the priorities of the U.S. government";

WHEREAS the Compact poses a direct threat to academic freedom by using items (i)-(iv) as levers of control over university decision-making, affairs, and governance;

WHEREAS the Trump Administration issued its Compact to nine leading U.S. universities on October 1, 2025 and extended it to all U.S. higher education institutions on October 14, 2025;



WHEREAS seven out of the nine leading universities have publicly rejected the Compact as of October 20, 2025;

WHEREAS the American Association of Colleges and Universities released a statement on October 3, 2025 calling the Compact an “ultimatum” that threatens to “trade academic freedom for federal funding”;

WHEREAS a joint statement endorsed by the American Council on Education and 35 additional higher education associations was released on October 17, 2025 calling the Compact “a step in the wrong direction” that “would hinder, not safeguard, freedom of expression for all points of view”;

WHEREAS the Compact has the potential to directly affect the experience of Emory Community members (including faculty, staff, and students) for, by example, changing the demographic composition of student cohorts or limiting accessibility to gender-neutral bathrooms;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Emory University Faculty Council commends the decision of those institutions that have rejected the compact and urges the Emory University Administration to reject the Compact in its entirety.

The Council went into Executive Session from 4:30 to 5 pm.