

Date: October 9th, 2025

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Jennifer Allen
Pima County Supervisor for District 3 and Vice Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N. Stone Ave, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: **Agenda/Addendum Item**

Dear Melissa,

Please place the following item on the Addendum for the Board of Supervisors meeting of October 14th, 2025.

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS; OPPOSING
TARGETED FEDERAL INTERFERENCE AND DISINVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND
DEFENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA AGAINST THE PROPOSED "COMPACT
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION."**

In light of President Trump's letter to nine U.S. universities, including the University of Arizona, in which offers of federal funding are made contingent upon university commitments to carry out his agenda, southern Arizona's elected and community leaders are calling on UA President Garimella to hold the line, citing major concerns about federal overreach and the erosion of academic freedom.

Those leaders include the Tucson City Council, whose recently passed resolution, introduced by Council Members Rocque Perez (Ward 5) and Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1), serves as a template for the one attached here today, local Arizona State Senators and Representatives, the University of Arizona Faculty Senate, and the Associated Students of the University of Arizona (ASUA).

In solidarity with our neighboring jurisdictions and fellow local leaders, Pima County should join this chorus of voices and stand up to any effort by the Trump administration to politicize higher education and suppress the viewpoints of the diverse communities served by the University of Arizona.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-_____

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS; OPPOSING TARGETED
FEDERAL INTERFERENCE AND DISINVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND
DEFENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA AGAINST THE PROPOSED “COMPACT
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION.”

WHEREAS, the University of Arizona (UA) is among the nation’s most respected public research institutions, serving as Arizona’s land-grant university and a federally recognized Hispanic-Serving Institution, preparing generations of students as a champion of academic excellence, discovery, and opportunity for all to the benefit of Pima County, the State of Arizona, and the world; and

WHEREAS, UA has earned the trust of Arizona families through its commitment to access, research, and service, while contributing to the economic vitality, cultural richness, and innovation of our state as a leader in science, technology, medicine, water, space exploration, food, agriculture, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, President Trump and the Federal Administration has sought to insert political mandates into local higher education by offering a “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” to nine U.S. universities, including the University of Arizona, wherein preferential access to federal funding would be conditioned on compliance with partisan mandates—with significant financial penalties and withdrawal of benefits for noncompliance; and

WHEREAS, this attempt to tie local universities to federal political agendas represents significant overreach into our community, threatening not only the University of Arizona’s mission as a land grant university and but also as a Tier One research institution; and

WHEREAS, President Trump and the Administration have already advanced sweeping cuts to higher education – including funding, visas for international students, TRIO programs, Hispanic-Serving Institution grants, STEM initiatives, and student- parent childcare support - demonstrating that disinvestment persists even when institutions comply, and that the true risk lies in submission to federal interference; and

WHEREAS, these cuts directly harm Pima County families, reduce opportunity for economic mobility, and weaken the workforce pipeline critical to Arizona’s competitiveness, while undermining the educational access and equity that residents rightly expect from their public institutions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Pima County opposes President Trump and Administration’s “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education” as an unacceptable act of federal

interference that undermines local control, academic freedom, and opportunity for our residents.

2. Pima County affirms its confidence in the University of Arizona's leadership to reject the Compact and to continue its responsibility as a land-grant institution that champions access, independence, and opportunity for all.
3. Pima County calls upon Arizona's congressional delegation to oppose federal interference and disinvestment in higher education, recognizing that such actions undermine Pima County families, diminish opportunity, and weaken our region's economic competitiveness.
4. Administrator Leshner, on behalf of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, will send a letter and a copy of this Resolution to the President of the University of Arizona, the Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona's congressional delegation, and the Governor of Arizona.

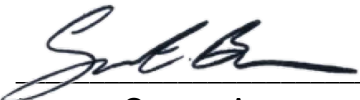
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of October, 2025.

Rex Scott, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney