

The University of Michigan  
Senate Assembly  
Resolution #2192024

**Resolution on Academic Freedom and External Harassment**

**Whereas**, Academic Freedom is a bedrock principle of U.S. institutions of higher education as codified in the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure ([1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure | AAUP](#)).

**Whereas**, Faculty members at U-M who adhere to the 1940 Statement on Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure in and outside of their classroom teaching and in their research activities have increasingly become victims of external harassment simply for doing their job.

**Whereas**, Faculty members at U-M who have become victims of external harassment for exercising their academic freedom in and outside of the classroom and in their research have lacked adequate support from the U-M administration in terms of fundamental solidarity, full-throated support of their academic freedom, and support in repairing injury to their public reputations.

**Whereas**, UM-AAUP & SACUA jointly requested on April 23, 2023 to the Ann Arbor Provost's Office that a Task Force be appointed to address this problem, and an LSA workgroup submitted recommendations on August 2023.

**Be it resolved**, that the University take immediate action to put in place a prominent U-M website, publicized across all departments, that provides information and resources for faculty who have been harassed or threatened by those within or outside of the UM community. There currently exist numerous resources that many faculty remain unaware of. As additional resources are developed, the website can be expanded.

**Be it resolved**, that the University this semester establish a unit on each campus that coordinates support for targeted faculty. Crucially, this unit must incorporate input from faculty, including faculty who have themselves been targeted. The guiding principle must be that faculty feel the support of the University behind them, including support to restore a faculty member's reputation when it has been damaged.

**Be it resolved**, that the University expand external threat assessment, particularly where it involves faculty.

**Be it resolved**, that the University central administration publicly voice full-throated support (and repeatedly over time) for U-M faculty members, individually and as a whole, in regard to their academic freedom as codified in the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure ([1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure | AAUP](#)).

Approved by the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) on February 9, 2024.

Approved by SACUA, with revisions, on February 12, 2024.

Approved by the Senate Assembly, with revisions, on February 19, 2024.