

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

July 24, 2025

To: President Todd Wolfson
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
aaup@aaup.org

Cc: Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL)
Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

Re: International Solidarity on Academic Freedom

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the 1,600 members of the University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA), I am reaching out today with a message of international solidarity and support in defense of academic freedom across the United States.

As university educators, researchers, and post-secondary institution staff, we watch in horror at the social and political events currently unfolding in the United States as the principles of academic freedom are being assaulted by President Donald Trump through his attacks on DEI, campus protests, climate science and other teaching, research, and service.

Academic freedom is fundamentally important to the work we do as post-secondary educators and underpins the core mission of post-secondary education: the advancement of knowledge and the education of critical thinkers. Academic freedom is essential to the performance of our duties as scholars and teachers, and in the collegial governance process.

We recognize the crucial role that AAUP has played in reinforcing the conventions of academic freedom since its [1915 declaration](#) emphasizing “freedom of inquiry and research; freedom of teaching within the university or college; and freedom of extramural utterance and action.” We wholeheartedly agree that academic freedom is a public trust,

and that private and government interference over what is researched and taught in universities undermines this important work.

In Canada, we are also witnessing a rise in attacks on public post-secondary institutions and academic freedom, along with the rise of a populist right that is fashioning itself on MAGA and Trumpian politics. We are currently working to defend academic freedom for our own members through collective bargaining, education, and advocacy.

We know that courage and collective action are required at this moment. We must stem the tide of “[anticipatory obedience](#)” — complying in advance of laws or pressure to do so. One way to do this is to support one another across borders and pressure our administrations to stand in support of academic freedom, rigorously defend DEI initiatives and safeguard faculty, staff, and students who are protesting in support of human rights.

We will not sit in silence while academic freedom and human rights are being attacked. Please accept this message of international solidarity and support, and let us know how our union and members can further support your struggle to defend academic freedom.

In solidarity,



Dr. Britt Hall
University of Regina Faculty Association
President

The University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA) is a union of more than 1,600 professionals working to advance the academic missions of Campion College, First Nations University of Canada, Luther College and the University of Regina.

Members of URFA include faculty, sessionals, librarians, instructors, lab instructors and administrative, professional and technical (APT) employees across seven bargaining units.