



## A Call to President Assanis and the UD Board of Trustees:

### Join Our Peers in Defending Research and International Scholars

**April 25, 2025**

We write to urge the University of Delaware's President and Board of Trustees to take immediate and public action to defend research, academic freedom, and our international students and faculty.

UD's peer universities are [successfully fighting to protect open research and inclusive collaboration, and to have SEVIS records restored](#). Members of the [Rutgers-led Big Ten Mutual Defense Compact](#), including Indiana University and UMass-Amherst, have committed to coordinated legal support. Michigan State, Rutgers, Georgetown, and Maryland have signed onto the [amicus brief in AAUP v. Rubio](#). Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, Rutgers, Stonybrook, Maryland, UVA, and others have joined the [AAC&U's denouncement of government overreach](#).

A large number of the targeted scholars are in fields that this university claims to excel in, such as engineering, biological sciences, and computer and data science. Many are within a month of graduation. The disruption of their work disrupts that of the faculty they work with, threatening careers and reputation. Our international faculty may soon be targeted as well, and the damage to recruitment, retention, and research funding is already apparent.

It is time for the University of Delaware to stand with our peer institutions in suing to protect due process for our international colleagues and to defend our University's rightful authority over SEVIS records. The University of Delaware claims to be a leader in public research and global scholarship. We urge you to stand by that promise to students, faculty, and the academic community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Persephone Braham'.

Persephone Braham, President  
on behalf of the Executive Council, [AAUP-UD](#)  
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