



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

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October 23, 2025

Office of the President, University of Virginia
Post Office Box 400224
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4224

Dear Interim President Paul G. Mahoney & Members of the UVA Board of Visitors,

We write to express our extreme disappointment in Interim President Mahoney's decision, supported by the Rector and the Board of Visitors, to sign a settlement agreement with the Trump administration in an attempt to suspend federal investigations. This action makes the University of Virginia the first public university to enter into such a far-reaching agreement, calling into grave question your ability to adequately protect the interests and resources entrusted to you by the Virginia General Assembly.

Contrary to your claim that the deal "preserves the academic freedom" of our great state University and "does not involve external monitoring," the agreement actually subjects the University to unprecedented federal control. You have pledged to personally "report to the Assistant Attorney General each quarter" and granted the federal government the broad right to "make such inquiries as it deems necessary to verify the accuracy" of those reports. Unfettered external review and access is absolutely a form of monitoring. The agreement further allows the federal government in its "sole discretion" to decide if UVA's progress is insufficient, according to ideological interpretation, and then to pursue "enforcement actions, monetary fines, or grant and funding terminations" as it deems appropriate.

In your letter you pledge to uphold the Jeffersonian ideal of an "unyielding pursuit of 'truth, wherever it may lead.'" You did not provide the entire quote. It is etched on an entrance to New Cabell Hall and reads, "For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

We cannot imagine Mr. Jefferson would find any comfort in your correspondence. Your actions fail to leave the University free and unafraid to combat that which is untrue or in error. By agreeing to these terms, UVA risks betraying the very principles you espouse in your letter: academic freedom, ideological diversity, and free expression. For these reasons, we call for immediate action to reverse this surrender of institutional autonomy and reject further federal interference.

Katrina E. Callsen
Member, Virginia House of Delegates
54th District

R. Creigh Deeds
Member, Virginia State Senate
11th District