

Response to FSU Letter to Administration on Free Speech and Academic Freedom

Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 12:31 PM

To: Faculty Staff Union <FSU@umb.edu>; Caroline Coscia <Caroline.Coscia@umb.edu>

Cc: Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco <Chancellor@umb.edu>; Joseph B Berger <Joseph.Berger@umb.edu>; Calvin R Hill <Chill@umb.edu>

Subject: RE: Faculty Staff Union (FSU) letter on free speech and academic freedom

Dear Caroline and FSU Colleagues,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter and continuous passion and advocacy for our campus community.

In response to your letter and concerns, we want to re-affirm our continuous action-oriented approach to protecting the mission and values of UMass Boston. In the recent Campus Update on April 17th, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco publicly shared a reflection on his own experience fleeing political repression in Argentina and how he, alongside the entire administration, is committed to supporting our entire campus community through comprehensive strategies including a framework of legal, academic, and emotional actions and support.

Further evidence of that commitment can be found in [Chancellor Suárez-Orozco joining higher education leaders across the country in endorsing the *A Call for Constructive Engagement* public statement in response to ongoing government intrusion into higher education.](#) We believe this statement eloquently represents what we stand for and what we are fighting for.

Additionally, we unequivocally support principles of free speech, academic freedom, and the pursuit of knowledge. We hold these as sacred virtues that must be protected in all their forms. At UMass Boston we encourage and support the freedom of assembly exercised on University property in a manner consistent with our policies which support the mission and operation of the University and the rights of other members of the community.

We encourage all our community to continue to work with us on protecting and advancing our mission and values through internal and external constructive engagement.

Regards,
Marie

Marie.Hj.Bowen
Vice.Chancellor.for.Human.Resources