

# **FAS-SEAS SENATE**

**AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS  
AND SCIENCES AND SEAS**

**YALE UNIVERSITY**

## **An Open Letter to the Provost Regarding Yale's Support for Academic Freedom**

APPROVED by the FAS-SEAS Senate  
February 19, 2026

Dear Provost Strobel,

Thank you for your passionate support of the principles of academic freedom in your remarks to the FAS-SEAS faculty last Thursday. Your words left no doubt that you stand with the faculty on this issue, and we look forward to reading your forthcoming statement. However, we still find that the Faculty Handbook falls short of adequately defining or defending these principles. Though one could, as you did, piece together sections of the Handbook to argue that this support is implicit, what we ask for is a clear statement such as, "Yale fully supports the academic freedom of its faculty," and a definition of what academic freedom at Yale entails. As it stands, the Handbook leaves faculty unsure of what protections they have.

We strongly request the following:

- That the Faculty Handbook be revised to incorporate clear and unambiguous language stating that Yale supports the academic freedom of its faculty.
- That this revision define academic freedom; include examples of the types of academic freedom that are covered; and explain the corresponding responsibilities of the faculty.
- That the added language be drafted in collaboration with Yale faculty.
- That, given the urgency of national debate on these topics, these changes be implemented by the end of this academic term.

We look forward to your response and remain dedicated to working with you on this extremely important topic.