

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Endorsed by the GESO Membership on December 6, 2006

Universities prioritize knowledge—teaching and research—over profit:

The university must be a space where academics have the freedom to develop vibrant intellectual communities, produce truly adventurous, quality scholarship and engage in social critique. All scholars, regardless of the profitability of their work, should have the resources and flexibility to develop their fields. Universities should share their knowledge with the broader community.

Universities are democratic institutions:

Administrative decision-making should occur in a fair, transparent manner and as the result of meaningful representation of and ongoing dialogue with all groups that have a stake in the university.

Universities are good employers:

Universities should provide good benefits and job security for all employees. University administrations should recognize the right of workers, both academic and non-academic, to organize, regardless of federal labor law, and should bargain in good faith with their employees.

Universities are leaders in promoting equality, diversity and accessibility:

Universities must provide an excellent education to all outstanding scholars and students, regardless of their race, class, sex, gender identity or expression, sexuality, disabilities, ethnicity or national origin, and provide high-quality academic jobs and institutional support to underrepresented groups.

Universities with global visions have global responsibilities:

As global institutions, universities should prioritize knowledge over profit, create democratic and transparent decision-making structures, provide good benefits, job security, and organizing rights for all employees, and promote equality, diversity, and accessibility in their operations worldwide.