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UVA Should Protect Its Scientists

The AAUP joined with three other groups in writing a letter to University of Virginia president Teresa Sullivan urging her to reconsider a May 2011 agreement the university made with the American Tradition Institute. In the agreement, the university said it would provide to ATI personal e-mails and many other documents from climate scientist Michael Mann and more than thirty other scientists.

The AAUP recognizes the need to respond open records requests and to strike a balance between openness and protecting employees’ privacy rights. However, in this case, UVA is providing more access than it needs to under the law and by doing so, is abrogating its responsibility to protect the privacy and academic freedom of scientists.