**SAMPLE BOARD RESOLUTION:**

**<Institution Name> Board of Trustees Resolution  
Affirming Commitment to Institutional Autonomy and Board Independence**

WHEREAS, the landmark United States Supreme Court decision in *Dartmouth College v. Woodward* (1819) affirmed that the governance of higher education institutions must remain free from political interference;

WHEREAS, the board of trustees recognizes that institutional autonomy and board independence are fundamental to academic freedom, educational excellence, and the fulfillment of our fiduciary duties; and

WHEREAS, recent developments in the national and state political environments have introduced new threats to the independence of colleges and universities through attempts to condition funding or impose governance requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The board of trustees reaffirms its unwavering commitment to maintaining the independence of this institution’s governance.
2. The board asserts that its decisions will continue to be made in the best interests of the institution’s educational mission, students, faculty, and public service, free from external political pressures.
3. The board calls on all stakeholders — policymakers, higher education leaders, and the public — to defend the autonomy of America’s colleges and universities as essential to a thriving democracy and economy.
4. The board authorizes the chair and president to communicate this commitment publicly and to advocate for policies that protect board independence and institutional autonomy.

Adopted by the [Institution Name] board of trustees on [date].  
[Signatures]