

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 26, 2018

Chairman Breslin called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 1:12 p.m. in the Board Room.

Trustees present: Brian Breslin, Dianne Byrum, Joel Ferguson, Melanie Foster, Dan Kelly, Mitch Lyons, Brian Mosallam, and George Perles.

University officers present: Provost and Executive Vice President Youatt, Executive Vice President Udpa, Vice President and Secretary Beekman, Vice President and General Counsel Noto, Vice Presidents Burnham, Gore, Groves, Hsu, Maybank, Swain, and Zecher. Faculty liaisons present: Laura McCabe, Deborah Moriarty, and Thomas Tomlinson. Student liaisons present: Lauren Bernhardt, Ashley Fuente, Malik Hall, Lorenzo Santavicca.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, unless otherwise noted.

1. On a motion by Trustee Ferguson, with support from Trustee Lyons, the Board of Trustees adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas Lou Anna K. Simon has tendered her resignation as President to the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas the Board of Trustees has already commenced its search for an Interim President; and

Whereas, Trustee Byrum, as Chairperson of the Policy Committee, recommends that the Board accept the resignation of President Lou Anna K. Simon and appoint Bill Beekman to serve as Acting President under the terms and conditions set forth above.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of President Simon;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Bill Beekman is hereby appointed the Acting President of Michigan State University, commencing immediately and continuing until the Board appoints an Interim President;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Mr. Beekman is hereby granted authority, as Acting President, and during his appointment as Acting President, to discharge all duties and responsibilities of the president of Michigan State University under the University's Bylaws, the resolutions of the Board, University policies, and otherwise under law; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson of the Board is hereby authorized to execute such documents and agreements as may be necessary or appropriate in connection with the implementation of the foregoing, with a copy provided to each member of the Board.

## 2. Trustee Comments

Trustee Breslin made the following statement:

First and foremost, we apologize to victims of Larry Nassar. One after another, they spoke out bravely in open court last week. They asked for their voices to be heard, for responsiveness, for action. We acknowledge their voices and say to the survivors, their families, and everyone in our community affected by sexual violence that we recognize that change is overdue. It is also clear that MSU has not been focused enough on the victims. Our hope is that there will be an opportunity soon to resume a dialogue with counsel for the victims to reach a fair and just resolution. The board today discussed the following points and authorized the following actions:

We must also acknowledge that there have been failures at MSU, not only in our processes and operations, but in our culture, and we are united in our determination to take all necessary steps to begin a new day and change the environment at the university. The board has initiated a process to bring in an independent third-party to perform a top-to-bottom review of all our processes relating to health and safety, in every area of the University, and to provide recommendations on actions that we will implement to change the culture of MSU on this important issue.

We understand that the survivors, their families and the public have many questions about the Nassar matter. We have asked the Attorney General's Office to conduct a review of the events surrounding the Nassar matter. Today, we are calling on him to conduct his review as expeditiously as possible and to appoint an independent, third party to promote bipartisan acceptance of the results.

Again, we are committed to taking the right actions to create a culture that provides a safe environment for all members of our community, and the transition to new leadership will be a key component in helping us change course. The Board will play an integral role in these efforts and in making MSU a leader here and nationally in preventing sexual abuse.

We cannot change the past, but we can and will devote our time and resources to foster healing and move forward together.

Trustee Mosallam apologized to the Nassar survivors. He stated that the Board had failed them and that the Board had come across as tone deaf, emotionless, and lacking empathy. He thanked the survivors for their courage and strength and hopes that the survivors will find justice and closure. Trustee Mosallam suggested that the University hire an external safety monitor to continuously provide reports to the public. He stated that there is a long road ahead for MSU and that cultural changes will be necessary to solve the problems. Students, faculty, alumni, and trustees will need to work together to ensure this never happens again.

Trustee Kelly stated that this issue was about the culture of MSU and that much work would need to be done going forward. He also stated that the actions and statements of the victims would change the University. Trustee Kelly stated that he was committed to making sure the University never forgets what the survivors said during their statements.

Trustee Foster apologized to the Nassar survivors and apologized for the unresponsiveness of MSU's administration. She stated that as a Board member she would be committed to making campus a safer place and invited victims to collaborate. Trustee Foster also stated that she urged the upcoming Attorney General's investigation of MSU to include programs and policies of the University.

Trustee Byrum apologized to the survivors and stated that she and the University made mistakes. She also voiced her regret for not being more open to the public. Trustee Byrum committed to raising her voice and moving forward.

Trustee Perles shared his compassion with the victims and apologized to them. He stated that the Board would make sure it never happens again.

Trustee Lyons apologized to the survivors and their families and stated that he would be committed to the investigation and that he will take measures to ensure this never happens again.

Trustee Ferguson apologized for his comments in a recent interview. He stated that the emphasis should have been and still needs to be on the victims. Trustee Ferguson committed to redoubling efforts to make MSU a better institution and apologized for the inaction of himself and the Board as a whole.

Trustee Breslin apologized to the survivors and thanked them for coming forward with their stories. He stated that he will work to ensure that the abuse never occurs again on campus and that a thorough review will be conducted. Trustee Breslin noted that the focus of MSU needs to shift from lawsuits to helping the victims and survivors with their healing. He stated that he hoped that the Attorney General

would use the opportunity to announce his investigation as soon as possible and that he select a neutral, independent party to assure that the investigation is free of politics. Trustee Breslin apologized again to the survivors and thanked them for coming forward.

3. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Ferguson, supported by Trustee Breslin, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Beekman  
Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees