

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

January 31, 2018

President Beekman called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 9:05 a.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 General Counsel Noto, Vice Presidents Burnham, Gore, Groves, Haas, Hsu, Maybank, and Swain. Faculty liaisons present: Laura McCabe, Deborah Moriarty, and Thomas Tomlinson. Student liaisons present: Lauren Bernhardt, Ashley Fuente, and Lorenzo Santavicca.

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

1. Special meeting resolution

Whereas the Board of Trustees appointed Bill Beekman as acting President on January 26, 2018,

Whereas the Board of Trustees immediately commenced the search for an interim president,

Whereas the Board of Trustees believes it is in the University's best interest to appoint an interim president from outside the institution to provide strong leadership during this critical time,

Now therefore BE IT RESOLVED that John Engler is hereby appointed the interim president of Michigan State University, commencing Monday, February 5, 2018 and continuing until such time as the Board conducts a national search and appoints a permanent president, and,

BE IT RESOLVED that John Engler is hereby granted authority as interim president, and during his appointment as interim president will 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

BE IT RESOLVED 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. As chairperson of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, I move that the Board hereby appoint John Engler as the interim president of Michigan State University under the terms and conditions set forth above.

Trustee Breslin **moved to approve** the recommendations, with support from Trustee Byrum.

THE BOARD VOTED to approve the resolution.

2. Trustee Comments

Trustee Mosallam wanted the survivors giving impact statements in Eaton County to know that their voices are being heard. He also apologized for sexual assault being enabled by the culture at MSU. Trustee Mosallam congratulated Governor Engler and stated that although he has not always agreed with Governor Engler's past programs and policies, he pledged to support the majority of the Board's decision for unity. Trustee Mosallam spoke about his upcoming town hall and noted the importance of having conversations with survivors. Trustee Mosallam also invited Governor Engler to attend the town hall. Mosallam stressed the importance for the Board to work with survivors, parents, the MSU community, and the public, and the need for transparency moving forward.

Trustee Kelly stated that he supports the resolution and that he believes Governor Engler will be able to move MSU forward in this complicated situation.

Trustee Foster thanked Governor Engler for coming back as a true Spartan to serve as interim president to enable MSU to begin the healing process while moving forward during the search for a permanent president.

Trustee Byrum spoke about the necessity for major changes at MSU, including changing the culture, increasing transparency, increasing accountability, and improving communications. Trustee Byrum stated that Governor Engler would be well prepared to handle such challenges with the cooperation of Governor Blanchard. Trustee Byrum spoke about her past disagreements with Governor Engler, but that he was the right person to move MSU forward. She noted that Governor Engler would be an effective, decisive leader who truly cares for MSU and who will do the right thing for the MSU community.

Trustee Perles stated that Governors Engler and Blanchard would make an effective team. He also stated that many students and women were counting on the Board of Trustees to make sure that this abuse never happens again.

Trustee Lyons thanked Governor Engler for taking the role of interim president under the current circumstances. Trustee Lyons stated that this was a different consideration from a permanent president and that President Engler would be the right person at the right time to get MSU on the path to recovery.

Trustee Ferguson stated that the Board of Trustees has never acted in a partisan way, and it should be of no surprise that Governor Engler was picked to fill the role of interim president. Trustee Ferguson stated that Governors Engler and Blanchard both possess a great deal of expertise and that MSU is lucky to have these former Spartans return to serve.

Trustee Breslin stated that the single most important task for a governing board is to name a president. Trustee Breslin stated that president Engler would reflect the Board's desire to take a strong focus on the survivors and create a culture where all students are safe, and that the voice of the faculty would be heard. Trustee Breslin noted that Governor Engler's appointment is temporary and that all voices will be heard in the selection process for a permanent president.

3. Faculty Liaison Comments

Laura McCabe, faculty liaison, read the following statement on behalf of the Faculty Steering Committee:

Our hearts have broken for the brave survivors who stepped forward after suffering abuse by Nassar, and we thank them for bringing him to justice. MSU has failed you, and as faculty, we sincerely apologize. Moving forward, we will work to change the culture of Michigan State University so that this and other instances of harassment, abuse, institutional neglect and condescension never happen again. Michigan State University must become a leader in the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual abuse at institutions of higher learning. We feel that our efforts have been thwarted by the myopic and entrenched administrative structure that has placed political expediency and institutional branding above the need for trust from the MSU community, as well as the healing of the survivors.

We were invited to a private Board of Trustees meeting January 29, 2018 to provide faculty input. At this meeting faculty expressed that appointing a former governor with no academic leadership experience, as interim president would not be the best choice in healing the wounds of this community in the politically polarized climate. We suggested someone who has experience in implementing anti-harassment and anti-assault programs. We also suggested a woman, because her lived experience would provide wisdom in this time. We also suggested a month-long to semester-long process be taken in hiring an interim president, so voices from all across campus could be taken into consideration. It appears that none of our suggestions were listened to, and we discovered Engler's appointment via the public media. As faculty, we take issue with the selection itself, as well as the selection process.

4. Student Liaison Comments

Ashley Fuente, student liaison, stated that she has tried to maintain her faith that MSU can pave the way forward ending rape culture and a divisive climate. She noted that she was hopeful that the Board would honor promises to listen to victims, students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders in the institution. Ms. Fuente said that she, along with other student leaders, met with the Board of Trustees on January 29, 2018 and was told by the Board that their input would be considered when selecting an interim president and permanent president. She was disappointed to learn news of Governor Engler's selection from the media. Ms. Fuente stated that appointing a politician in an already polarized campus, even for a temporary amount of time, is catastrophic, and that Governor Engler's past policies and actions violate MSU's core value of inclusion. She also stated that the Board must do better to uphold the integrity of the office of the Board of Trustees and that Governor Engler is the wrong direction for MSU. Ms. Fuente added that the right direction would be someone with the knowledge, skills, and demonstrated ability in creating education programs for assault prevention, as well as someone who is an educator.

Lorenzo Santavicca, student liaison, stated that he was disappointed that broader student input was not considered after meetings on January 29, 2018. He stated that along with his colleagues, he questioned the conversation with the Board. Mr. Santavicca said that he was deeply disappointed in the Board for its actions regarding the procedure for appointment of the interim president. He stated that it is time for the Board to do better, and it had to start yesterday. Mr. Santavicca noted that he expected Board members to attend the ASMSU meeting on February 1, 2018.

Lauren Bernhardt, student liaison, expressed her dissatisfaction in the Board's selection of interim president. She stated that she has concerns regarding his ability to lead the University during an independent investigation and to start the process of healing for survivors, students, and faculty. Ms. Bernhardt noted her disappointment that students and faculty liaisons learned of the choice of interim president via news outlets, especially after being asked for input. She questioned if the Board is genuine when listening to students, faculty, survivors, and staff in the Spartan community.

5. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Ferguson, supported by Trustee Breslin, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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