

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

February 12, 2020

President Stanley called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Trustees present: Dianne Byrum, Melanie Foster, Joel Ferguson, Dan Kelly, Brian Mosallam, Brianna Scott and Kelly Tebay.

Trustees absent: Renee Knake.

University officers present: President Stanley, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Sullivan, Executive Vice Presidents Beauchamp and Wilbur, Secretary Barr, Athletic Director Beekman, Vice Presidents Bales, Bollman, Guerrant, Haas, Heil, and Maybank, and Senior Advisor and Director Granberry Russell. Faculty liaisons present: Megan Donahue. Student liaisons present: Meagan Abel and Miyanna Fowlkes.

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

1. On a motion by Trustee Kelly, supported by Trustee Foster, the **BOARD VOTED to approve** the agenda.
2. Personnel Action

Trustee Byrum presented the following personnel action:

Melvin Tucker, AN-Head Football Coach, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, subject to contract with effective dates of February 14, 2020 through January 15, 2026.

Trustee Byrum **moved to approve** the recommendation, with support from Trustee Mosallam.

Trustee Byrum asked Bill Beekman, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, to provide remarks.

I would like to thank those today who helped in the coaching search process. The search team was aided by our two Associate Athletic Directors, Alan Haller and Jen Smith, who did much of the leg work and were invaluable in getting us where we are today. I'd also like to recognize Matt Larson, Associate Athletic Director for Communications, and Assistant Athletic Director Kevin Pauga, who did a

significant amount of behind the scenes work. I would be remiss not to mention the work of Coach Izzo, who despite being in season, did the work of calling and vetting individuals. Brian Quinn, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, was also extremely helpful. I would also like to thank President Stanley and the Board of Trustees for assisting in the process. Thank you for your guidance and leadership in getting us to where we are today.

We began the search with a clear vision of what we were looking for in our next head coach. We were looking for a person of character, a person who was passionate about Michigan State University, someone with head coaching experience, a track record of coaching success, someone with a strong recruiting background, especially in the Midwest, someone with Big Ten experience, and someone who is a gifted teacher. In a role like this, “fit” is critical. Ultimately, we found a coach who shares our passion and our vision for Spartan Football.

In the consultation process, we spoke with many, many individuals close to MSU football, college football generally, and the National Football League (NFL). Among the lead consultants we used in this process were Jimmy Raye, MSU and NFL standout and Senior Advisor to the NFL on Diversity Issues; Jim Tressel, former Ohio State head coach and Youngstown State President, a five-time national champion, who has deep understanding of football in the Midwest; Gene Washington, MSU All American, a retired executive with 3M, and was a consultant to the last head coach search process; Nick Saban, Alabama head coach, multiple national championship holder who cares about Michigan State; Kevin Warren, Big Ten commissioner; and Coach Dantonio. We also gathered input from a wide array of former players from across the generations of Spartan Football, as well as current student-athletes.

In terms of a process, on February 4, 2020 Coach Dantonio announced his retirement. The process is not easy on anyone. It is not easy for the media that are covering it, the people who are doing it, or the public that are anxious to see who the next coach will be. Although you want to move expeditiously as you can, you also want to be deliberate in making the right choice and finding absolutely the best person for MSU. We began this process when Coach Dantonio, Alan Haller and I had several conversations over the last number of weeks. As it became clear that Mark’s retirement was imminent, we began to think about next steps.

On January 31, 2020 we engaged the search firm in anticipation of an announcement. That announcement came on February 4. On Wednesday, February 5, we had a conference call with the Board, and we began consulting with the many individuals who I have already mentioned. That was also signing day. On Thursday, February 6, we continued our consultation process and scheduled interviews. On February 7 through February 9, we crisscrossed the country interviewing several candidates. On Monday, February 10 we updated

the Board of Trustees and we offered the position to Coach Tucker. On Tuesday, February 11, yesterday, we negotiated the contract. Today we stand before you announcing the candidate.

So, who is Mel Tucker? He was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Played Defensive Back for the Wisconsin Badgers and was a three-time letter winner, winning the Big Ten Championship in 1993. There is nobody better suited to be a head coach than a defensive back. Coach Tucker graduated from Wisconsin in 1995 with a degree in Agricultural Management. He is married to his wife, Jo-Ellyn, and they have two sons, Joseph and Christian.

He began his coaching career in 1997 as a Graduate Assistant at Michigan State University under Head Coach Saban and Defensive Backs Coach Mark Dantonio. After a year as the defensive back coach at Miami (Ohio) he followed Coach Saban to LSU, serving as the defensive backs coach there. In 2001, he came to Ohio State as the Defensive Backs coach under Head Coach Jim Tressel and Defensive Coordinator Mark Dantonio, where he won a national championship in 2004. When Coach Dantonio left for Cincinnati, Coach Tucker was named co-defensive coordinator. In 2005, Mel entered the NFL, coaching defensive backs for the Cleveland Browns. He was promoted to Defensive Coordinator in 2008. In 2009, Mel joined the Jacksonville Jaguars as their Defensive Coordinator and in 2011 he served as the Jaguars Interim Head Coach for five games. In 2012 he was named the Jaguars Assistant Head Coach. In 2013, Mel was named Defensive Coordinator for the Chicago Bears. In 2015 Mel returned to the college game, taking over as Assistant Head Coach and Defensive Backs Coach for Coach Nick Saban at Alabama, winning his second collegiate national championship in 2016. In 2016, Mel joined the Georgia Bulldogs as their Defensive Coordinator. He helped guide the Bulldogs to a 2017 SEC championship, losing in the national championship game that year to Alabama. That year Tucker's defense was ranked sixth nationally both in scoring defense and total defense. In 2018, Coach Tucker was appointed Head Coach of the Colorado Buffaloes. And today, on February 12, 2020, I stand before you recommending him as the 25th Head Football Coach at Michigan State University.

President Stanley gave the following remarks:

Thank you, Bill for that thorough overview of that search process and how we arrived at a truly dynamic and motivational coach in Coach Mel Tucker. I could not be more excited about the energy you are going to bring to this program. I am so happy you are here today with your family as well. I feel very, very confident that you are up for the challenge. And there will be a challenge, replacing the winningest coach in MSU history, Mark Dantonio, but we really feel that you are the right person for this job, the right person at the right time. Your coaching experience at the college and NFL level is extraordinary, your resume is so, so

impressive, and again those things speak volumes. But what really speaks to me, is what people have told me about how you understand the values and integrity in prioritizing student success, and that really matters to us at Michigan State University. As Bill said, I think we had a strong process for this search and I think it speaks volumes, both about you, and about Michigan State University, that we are able to attract someone of your caliber to Michigan State. This is a national program, a program that we are very proud of, there is an incredible tradition of being a Spartan, and we welcome you now as our 25th coach of this distinguished program.

THE BOARD VOTED to approve the personnel action by roll call vote.

3. Trustee Comments

Trustee Byrum echoed President Stanley's comments and stated she is ecstatic to welcome Coach Tucker as MSU's 25th football coach. She also welcomed his family as part of the MSU community.

Trustee Kelly welcomed Coach Tucker and his family.

Trustee Ferguson welcomed Coach Tucker. Trustee Ferguson stated Coach Tucker is a good person and thanked him for being here.

Trustee Foster welcomed Coach Tucker to the Spartan family.

Trustee Mosallam welcomed Coach Tucker and his family and stated he is ecstatic to have them here.

Trustee Scott thanked Coach Tucker for taking on this position and welcomed him to MSU.

Trustee Tebay welcomed Coach Tucker to MSU.

4. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Kelly, supported by Trustee Mosallam, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nakia Barr
Secretary of the Board of Trustees