

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

January 13, 2021

President Stanley called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:00 a.m. via livestream.

Trustees present: Dianne Byrum, Melanie Foster, Dan Kelly, Renee Knake Jefferson, Pat O'Keefe, Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay, and Rema Vassar.

University officers present: President Stanley, Provost and Executive Vice President Woodruff; Executive Vice Presidents Beauchamp and Woo; Vice President and General Counsel Quinn; Secretary Barr; Vice Presidents Bales, Beekman, Guerrant, Haas, and Heil. Faculty liaisons present: Anna Pegler-Gordon.

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

1. On a motion by Trustee Kelly, supported by Trustee Scott, the **BOARD VOTED to approve** the proposed agenda.
2. Public Participation
  - A. Julie Farrell-Ovenhouse – Cutting Swimming and Diving
  - B. Andrea Bird Mahoney – Cutting Swimming and Diving
  - C. Michael Balow – Cutting Swimming and Diving
  - D. Meg Gore – Cutting Swimming and Diving
  - E. Alyssa Gorsling – Healing Fund
  - F. Elena Emory – Trustee Byrum leadership
  - G. Jon Edwards – Treatment by MSU OIE
3. President's Report

President Stanley provided the following report to the Board:

I want to thank all of those who spoke in the public section for their input. I will limit my remarks to congratulating and giving a warm welcome to Pat O'Keefe and Rema Vassar. We will now open the floor for nominations for the office of Board Chair.

4. Election of Officers

A. Board of Trustees Officers—Chairperson

Trustee O’Keefe **moved to nominate** Trustee Byrum to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Byrum accepted the nomination.

**THE BOARD VOTED to elect** Trustee Byrum as its Chairperson 8-0, with Dianne Byrum, Melanie Foster, Dan Kelly, Renee Knake Jefferson, Pat O’Keefe, Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay, Rema Vassar voting for Trustee Byrum.

B. Board of Trustees Officers—Vice Chairperson

Trustee Vassar **moved to nominate** Trustee Kelly to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Kelly accepted the nomination.

**THE BOARD VOTED to elect** Trustee Kelly as its Vice Chairperson 8-0, with Dianne Byrum, Melanie Foster, Dan Kelly, Renee Knake Jefferson, Pat O’Keefe, Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay, Rema Vassar voting for Trustee Kelly.

5. Trustee Comments

Chairperson Byrum welcomed Dr. Rema Vassar and Pat O’Keefe to the Board. She said that she is looking forward to getting to know them better and meeting them in person. Chairperson Byrum thanked her colleagues for the trust they have placed in her to serve as Board Chairperson for the next two years. She noted that it is something that she takes very seriously and is excited to tackle the collective work that the Board will do together over the next two years to benefit the future of MSU.

Vice Chairperson Kelly congratulated Trustee Byrum on being selected as chairperson. He said that the Board went through a very deliberate process and had a meeting amongst all members to discuss expectations of the chairperson, and that Trustee Byrum came out of that process as the best candidate. He said that he is confident that she will meet the expectations of what the Board has laid out for her. Vice Chairperson Kelly thanked Board members for their confidence in him as Vice Chairperson and noted that he will work as hard to meet those expectations. Vice Chairperson Kelly said that he is very excited about the new board. He stated that it is a very talented board that he thinks covers the spectrum of what is needed for MSU. He expressed his excitement for the future and his confidence that this is the right board for the right time at MSU.

Trustee Foster welcomed new board members Dr. Rema Vassar and Pat O'Keefe. She stated that they both have a vast set of accomplishments to bring to the board. Trustee Foster noted a new spirit of collaboration amongst the trustees and thinks that they are going to work well together. She indicated that there are upcoming issues and challenges ahead, including the reopening of campus. Trustee Foster said that she is excited to work with her new and existing colleagues and thanked Trustees Byrum and Kelly for their work the past two years as Chair and Vice Chair. She thanked them for accepting the responsibility for another term.

Trustee Knake Jefferson welcomed Dr. Rema Vassar and Pat O'Keefe and noted that she looked forward to working with them in the coming months and years. She acknowledged Dr. Jon Edwards' public comments and apologized for the incident. Trustee Knake Jefferson said that she appreciated him telling his story. She stated that she takes it seriously and that she takes continued conversations with all survivors seriously. Trustee Knake Jefferson stated that this informs the questions that she asks and importantly, the reforms that she continues to advocate for at MSU. She said that she looks forward in the coming year to working towards increased transparency and accountability in sexual misconduct and all areas of governance. She acknowledged that Provost Woodruff has been wonderful in supporting these efforts and the concerns that she has raised. Trustee Knake Jefferson said that she believes this board going forward will be working together towards these ends as well.

Trustee O'Keefe thanked the public speakers discussing the importance of the swimming program. He said that he thinks their comments are insightful, passionate, and not unlike the swimming programs that he is familiar with. Trustee O'Keefe said that they are very articulate and are scholars in their own right and that it is a pleasure to be associated with such a good group. Trustee O'Keefe thanked the public participants who talked about the healing fund and noted that it is definitely something that he is interested in learning more about. He thanked them for their courage and the statements made regarding its effectiveness. He also acknowledged Dr. Edwards' concerns and thanked him for sharing his experience. Trustee O'Keefe noted that he is a change agent and a crisis manager by profession. He said that he supported the leadership of Trustees Byrum and Kelly and is quite satisfied that the Board will have a new direction and a new effort relative to addressing some of the shortfalls that may have been perceived in the past. Trustee O'Keefe stated that he is excited about their leadership going forward and thinks that the Board will have a good collaborative year and accomplish things to move MSU forward. Trustee O'Keefe noted that he was an accounting graduate at MSU and holds a master's degree in finance. He said that he is interested

in the finances of the University and that his firm is involved in strategic planning and financial advisory. He stated that those are two things of interest for him as it relates to MSU. Trustee O'Keefe stated that he also testifies around the country on shareholder disputes regarding governance and is also keen on some of the governance issues within the university and those three areas will be his focal point. He said that the Board has a long way to go and he is hopeful that it can move in a new direction.

Trustee Scott welcomed Dr. Rema Vassar and Pat O'Keefe. She noted that it has been a pleasure getting to know them over the past few days and that she is ecstatic about the expertise that they each bring to the board. Trustee Scott stated that the passion they have to correct some of the issues at MSU have already been articulated and she is certain that they will do a phenomenal job. She congratulated Trustees Byrum and Kelly for both being re-elected to their positions. Trustee Scott said that there were conversations about the role of the Board Chair and Vice Chair and she believes that those were useful in moving forward with what those roles and responsibilities are, so that everyone is on the same page and that there is transparency amongst all of us as trustees. She said that she looks forward to working with Trustees Byrum and Kelly and is happy that they both agreed to continue in their roles. Trustee Scott said that she sympathized with the public speakers supporting the swimming and diving program. She noted the importance of the program to the group and assured them that they were being heard and apologized that the decision had to be made. Trustee Scott said that there have been many changes to the healing assistance fund based on feedback from survivors and encouraged anyone who has questions to visit the website for information.

Trustee Tebay welcomed Trustees O'Keefe and Vassar noting that she is looking forward to working with them. She stated that she is excited about the board as a whole and expects that they will work together transparently on the issues that are continuing to occur at MSU. Trustee Tebay acknowledged those speaking on behalf of the swim and dive team and thanked them for their persistence in reaching out to and educating the Board on the program, its history, and why it is important to MSU. She asked that survivors having issues with the healing fund call the customer service number or use the email listed on the website. She stated that the fund is administered by a third-party processor and is completely confidential. Trustee Tebay thanked Dr. Edwards for sharing his story, apologized for what he had to endure, and encouraged him to contact her directly.

Trustee Vassar said that she appreciated Dr. Edwards speaking during public comment and offered him her sincerest apology and asked him to reach out to her specifically to find a remedy or a way to assist in his healing. She stated that it is an honor and delight to serve on the board. Trustee Vassar said that her committed colleagues, students, administrators, faculty, staff, and the diversity of talent, interests, and thought will make this an awarding adventure as we meet new challenges and adventures together. She noted that she looks forward to leading and serving at MSU.

6. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Foster, supported by Trustee Kelly, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nakia Barr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nakia Barr  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees