

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
Michigan State University

Resolution: 22-FS-07

Title: A resolution supporting a vote of no confidence in MSU's Board of Trustees

Introduced by: The MSU Faculty Senate and the Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU)

Supported by: The 2022-23 COGS Executive Board

THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ENACTS:

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of MSU's governing groups to voice their lack of confidence in the Board's leadership and hold them accountable when they "have acted inconsistently with their respective constitutions" [1];

WHEREAS, The MSU Board of Trustees Code of Ethics and Conduct states:

"We will uphold our role as the supervisory and policymaking body of the institution; properly elect, support, and evaluate the President; and avoid involvement in administrative matters not subject to the direct authority of the Board [2].";

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees 1) hired an outside law firm to investigate the removal of Dean Sanjay Gupta by Provost Woodruff and 2) attempted on September 11 to force President Stanley to resign over matters that are outside of their purview, thereby appearing to involve themselves unnecessarily in academic management matters [3];

WHEREAS, The Board has also neglected their legal responsibility to review Title IX reports involving the alleged sexual misconduct of university employees, thereby failing to foster a safe Spartan community that upholds its commitment to the prevention of sexual assault and the protection of survivors [4];

WHEREAS, The Board's actions of and lack of transparency with MSU students and faculty has created a harsh campus climate, diminished Michigan State University's reputation, and negatively affected the recruitment of future Spartans [5] [6];

WHEREAS, These recent events have shown that the Board has not improved their conduct in response to previous incidents in which MSU failed to protect and support survivors of sexual misconduct in the MSU community [7];

RECOGNIZING, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University and the Michigan State University Faculty Senate voted no confidence in the Board of Trustees on October 6 by a vote of 21-0 (with four abstentions) and on October 11 by a vote of 55-4, respectively [8] [9];

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of Graduate Students has no confidence in the Board of Trustees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council of Graduate Students calls for the immediate resignation of each Board of Trustee member.

INTRODUCED ON:

VOTE TOTALS:

38 FOR
0 AGAINST
↓ ABSTAIN



Recording Secretary



President

References:

- [1] "Rights and responsibilities: the student conduct system." spartanexperiences.msu.edu, Office of Spartan Experiences, 2014. <https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/rights-and-responsibilities/student-conduct-system.html>
- [2] "Michigan State University Board of Trustees Code of Ethics and Conduct." trustees.msu.edu, MSU Board of Trustees, 15 May 2020. <https://trustees.msu.edu/about/code-of-ethics-and-conduct.html>
- [3] Jesse, D. "Sources: MSU board gives school president until Tuesday to agree to step down" *Detroit Free Press*, 11 Sept. 2022. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2022/09/11/msu-board-president-stanley-resignation/69485016007/>
- [4] Guzman, W. "Inconsistent messaging led to Title IX compliance failure at heart of issue with Stanley, board." *The State News*, 30 Sept. 2022. https://statenews.com/article/2022/09/inconsistent-messaging-led-to-title-ix-compliance-failure-at-heart-of-issue-with-stanley-board?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest
- [5] Jesse, D., Johnson, M. and Bolanos, V. "MSU President Samuel Stanley resigns. says he lost confidence in Board of Trustees." *Detroit Free Press*, 13 Oct. 2022. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2022/10/13/michigan-state-university-president-samuel-stanley-resigns/69485584007/>
- [6] Johnson, M. "React to Michigan State President Stanley's resignation. Here's what they're saying." *Lansing State Journal*, 14 Oct. 2022. <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2022/10/14/some-relieved-others-concerned-over-msu-president-stanley-resigning/69564125007/>
- [7] LaMore, R. "Sustainable and just investing at Michigan State University: a report to the Board of Trustees." *Ad Hoc Sustainable Investment Working Group*, 2022.
- [8] "Vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees." acadgov.msu.edu, Academic Governance, 11 Oct. 2022. <https://acadgov.msu.edu/facultysenate/facultysenate-resolutions>
- [9] "Associated students of Michigan State University general assembly fifty-ninth session." acadgov.msu.edu, ASMSU, 6 Oct. 2022. <https://acadgov.msu.edu/>

[/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/faculty-senate/2022-2023/fs-2022-10-11/asmsu-resolution-59-21-no-confidence-in-board-of-trustees.pdf](#)