

Dear MSU Community,

In these difficult times, it is a challenge for the Steering Committee to respond in a timely manner to all correspondences submitted and to do so without error. Three points need to be brought to your attention:

- 1) Regarding the “Letter to the Faculty” sent out Feb 16, it unfortunately was one of several versions being discussed before the Faculty Senate meeting. Everything in it is factual except for the content in the second paragraph which relates to our next course of action for the meeting with the Board of Trustees on Friday. We decided not to call for the Board resignation because we do not have a mandate from Faculty Senate to do so. The letter that we sent in error indicated that we asked for resignations; we did not. We are waiting to hear from Faculty Senate this Tuesday as to how to proceed. This is an error and we apologize for this.
- 2) Regarding your input, we appreciate getting constructive feedback about issues related to Academic Governance. Please click on the link below for any replies to this email or input you would like to submit: <https://acadgov.msu.edu/form/faculty-input>. All replies will be collected and reviewed by the At-Large Steering Committee members.
- 3) It is most regrettable that some hostile emails are being received from across campus. This must stop as it serves no purpose and will not affect the change across campus that we all want and need.

Please see the attached letter that was read to the Board of Trustees on Friday.

Sincerely,

The At-Large Steering Committee Members

Laura McCabe, Deborah Moriarty, Greg Swain, Ned Watts, and Rob Laduca

Below is the letter that was read to the Board of Trustees on February 16th 2018.

On January 31st, the Steering Committee sent an email to the voting faculty to get broad input on whether to pursue a vote of no confidence in the MSU Board of Trustees. On Feb 3rd, the voting faculty (Academic Congress, AC) decided to place a vote of no confidence on the Faculty Senate agenda. Of the 2,776 voting faculty (AC), 1,907 votes were received with 1,653 YES, 192 NO, and 62 abstained. Because of the majority of total faculty votes and the importance and immediacy of this, the Steering Committee voted to have an emergency Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, February 13th. The Faculty Senate is the governing faculty body that deliberates

and approves curriculum changes as well as many of the faculty statements and proposals. It is comprised of faculty representatives from all colleges. There are 70 voting faculty on the Senate and 5 non-voting members. On February 13th, there were 65 voting faculty present at the Senate meeting. After much discussion, the Faculty Senate voted (by iclicker) on "No Confidence" in the MSU Board of Trustees. The vote was in favor of the motion of "No Confidence"; the secret ballot was 61 in favor and 4 against.

The Faculty who spoke at the meeting noted many reasons why they voted no confidence in the Board including:

- A lack of oversight and supervision by the Board regarding the Nassar case, finding the Board complicit at worst or grossly negligent in oversight at best.
- A lack of compassion for the survivors.
- Failure, over a period of years, to listen to the stakeholders of Michigan State University, from students to faculty to deans.
- Appointment of an Interim President, without discussing the selection with MSU stakeholders.

The Faculty Senate of Michigan State University will meet next week. The agenda will be a discussion of the next steps following the Faculty Senate vote of no confidence. Among possible responses to a no confidence vote: resignation, adding faculty (and others) to a governing body, and changing the responsibilities of the governing body, to name a few.

The discussion will be led by the members of the Faculty Senate and the results of that meeting will be communicated to the Board of Trustees and the faculty.

Sincerely,
At-Large Members of the Steering Committee