

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

February 7, 2018

Dear Spartan Community,

We are all struggling to find a clear path forward in the wake of Larry Nassar's decades of egregious crimes, enabled by the complacency of numerous institutions, including our own Michigan State University. The failure to follow through on promises to protect our community is exactly how Larry Nassar continuously escaped punishment for decades. However, we need not look any further for guidance than the courageous survivors, who have issued calls for action and change with impeccable command, strength, and leadership. Thank you, with all the gratitude we can muster, to the survivors for your immense bravery and unyielding resilience. The Leadership of Michigan State University has failed you, but Spartans will follow *your* leadership with resolve and urgency. The Spartan Community owes it to this powerful army of survivors to do more than simply listen; we must follow through with steadfast action.

We, as a community, have received countless assurances that the Board of Trustees is ready to listen; yet by appointing Engler without consideration for the input from faculty and students, they have let us down. Only two of eight Trustees, Mosallam and Ferguson, pledged to listen to students in a town hall meeting. However, only Trustee Mosallam showed up to honor this pledge. Trustee Ferguson was a **no show** after making this promise publicly. One Trustee out of eight was interested in listening and hearing directly from students. **The lack of interest in student, faculty and staff voices could not be more obvious.** Empty promises and a lack of transparency, interest, empathy, compassion, and outright lies have been the recurring theme from this Board. Such poor leadership has no place at MSU. The Board of Trustees has made clear that they function in their own interest and not in that of survivors, students, faculty or staff at MSU. The level of hypocrisy, dishonesty and the lack of integrity exhibited by the appointment of Ex-Governor John Engler is proof that this body functions as a self-serving entity.

We all have a responsibility, not only to the survivors of Larry Nassar but to survivors of ALL sexual assault and relationship violence on MSU's campus, to listen and to act to ensure this never happens again on our campus or at any of our subsidiaries. The Board of Trustees has proven inept to adequately respond to these matters in thoughtful and methodical ways that promote safety and healing across our University. **And for these failures, we must hold them accountable.**

The Council of Graduate Students--the constitutionally authorized governing body for graduate and professional students of Michigan State University--has passed a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees with an overwhelming majority. **We call for the immediate removal of John Engler as Interim President and demand the subsequent resignation of each Trustee effective immediately.**

In Solidarity,

The Council of Graduate Students



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