

Dear Members of the Michigan State University Community:

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) 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 the 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 a "No Confidence" censure. 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 Steering Committee will provide the Board of Trustees with a letter indicating the results of the vote, what the vote means and a call for their resignation. Since the motion the Faculty Senate voted did not include any mention of resignation, the call to resignation will just be coming from the Steering Committee, not the Faculty Senate as a whole.

We believe that proper procedure should allow for the Faculty Senate to deliberate and vote on the next course of action. The Faculty Senate will meet next week to do just this. The agenda item will be a discussion of the next steps following the Faculty Senate vote of no confidence. Among possible actions to this vote are a resignation request from the whole body, a recommendation to replace individual trustees, creating mechanisms to add faculty (and others) to the governing body, changing the responsibilities of the governing body, etc.

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.

Please do not respond directly to this email. Any additional questions or concerns should be

addressed to the At-Large Members of the MSU Steering Community. Their contact information can be found on the MSU Academic Governance website.

Thank you,

MSU Steering Committee