

MEMORANDUM

January 27th, 2023

To: Tyler Silvestri, Secretary for Academic Governance

From: Carl Austin Miller Grondin, Chairperson for the University Committee on Student Life and Engagement
Connor Le, Vice Chairperson for the University Committee on Student Life and Engagement

RE: Consideration of Donor Accountability Policies and Procedures

Although donor funding aids Michigan State University athletics, scholarships, and research, instances in recent memory have found donors participating in behaviors that do not embody Michigan State University's values. These comments have caused severe discomfort and harm to students, faculty, and staff across campus, especially in historically marginalized communities. Examples of such comments include but are not limited to remarks made by Larry Gaynor, who, in May of 2020, during an online webinar for his company, TNG Worldwide, targeted Vietnamese-Americans and their businesses, all during the apex of Anti-Asian hate within our country, stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The University Committee on Student Life and Engagement seeks to solicit action on this issue. Per section [4.9.1.1. of the MSU Bylaws for Academic Governance](#), "[UCSLE] shall report to the University Council (3.2.5)."

The University Committee on Student Life and Engagement reports to the University Council that the committee supports the implementation of donor accountability policies, procedures, and practices. The University Committee on Student Life and Engagement supports this in conjunction with [Bill 59-10](#) and [Bill 59-11](#) from the Associated Students of Michigan State University and [Resolution 22-FS-17](#) from the Council of Graduate Students. Furthermore, we recommend that consideration for "supporting the creation and implementation of donor accountability policies and procedures" be taken by the University Council. Additionally, we recommend that the University Council formulate an ad-hoc committee to develop recommendations for such policies, procedures, and procedures.

UCSLE also requests undergraduate and graduate student participation in creating and enacting these policies. Please contact the committee for any questions or concerns.