

University Council

Draft Resolution
November 23, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

- Whereas,* Michigan State University is committed to the highest ethical and academic standards. As a public institution we are committed to transparent decision making and accountable governance; and
- Whereas,* We will eliminate barriers to access and success, challenge discrimination and bias, and address past and present inequalities; and
- Whereas,* We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of teaching, research, and engagement, to serve the common good and improve the world we live in;¹ and
- Whereas,* Recognizing that our current institutional investment policies are not within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030;² and
- Whereas,* The recent reports issued by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact state that failing to consider long term investment value drivers which include environmental, social and governance issues in investment practice is a failure of fiduciary duty;³ and
- Whereas,* Honoring our past leadership as a land-grant institution who in 1978 was a national leader in divesting our endowment from companies with subsidiaries in apartheid South Africa; therefore be it,
- Resolved,* That University Council calls upon the MSU Board of Trustees to create an investment task force to recommend to the Board of Trustees by the end of May 2022 an endowment investment strategy that will align MSU's endowment holdings with our social, economic, and environmental values as articulated in the MSU Strategic Plan; and be it further,
- Resolved,* That the task force shall be composed of seven members:

¹ MSU Strategic Plan Fall 2021 <https://strategicplan.msu.edu/mission>

² <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

³ https://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/fiduciary_duty_21st_century.pdf;
<https://www.unpri.org/download?ac=11972>



- Two members of the MSU Board of Trustees
- Three members of MSU’s faculty approved by the University Council from each of the following categories:
 - One member representing the disciplines aligned with environmental sciences, agriculture, or STEM
 - One member representing finance, business, or community economic development
 - One member representing the humanities, law, or the social sciences
- Two members representing the MSU students
 - One member appointed by the Associated Students of Michigan State University
 - One member appointed by the Council of Graduate Students; and be it further,

Resolved, That the task force shall adopt a scope of work that provides a timely review of our current MSU investment practices, our institutional mission, and our shared vision, as expressed in the MSU Strategic Plan;⁴ and be it further,

Resolved, That the task force shall elect its chairperson from its membership at its first meeting, the task force shall be provided administrative support as needed by the Office of the President or its designee, and all meetings of the task force shall be open to the public.

⁴ <https://strategicplan.msu.edu/-/media/assets/strategicplan/docs/msu-2030-strategic-plan-v2.pdf>