

University Council

Draft Resolution
March 26th, 2024



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

- Whereas*, ASMSU passed a resolution of no confidence in the Board of Trustees¹, citing among other factors, Trustee Scott's allegations of Trustee Vassar's misconduct; and,
- Whereas*, The Faculty Senate passed a resolution², calling on the Board of Trustees to remove Trustee Vassar as Chairperson, calling on Trustee Vassar to resign, referring her to the governor for removal per MCL 168.293, and authorizing the filing of a complaint with the university's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission, that outlined Trustee Vassar's transgressions of Criterion 2C4 and 2C5.
- Whereas*, Based on the findings within the independent Miller & Chevalier report,³ the Board of Trustees voted on March 3rd, 2024⁴, to censure Trustees Vassar and Denno, remove them from all current and future appointments during the Board's term ending December 31, 2024, except those activities and duties required as an elected official, and refer them to the governor for review and potential removal under MCL 168.293; and,
- Whereas*, The Academic Congress, citing the actions above, passed a resolution⁵ on March 14th, 1517-to-55, that called for Trustees Vassar and Denno to resign, endorsed the March 3rd Board of Trustees resolutions regarding censure and activity restrictions of Trustees Vassar and Denno, and endorsed the Board's request for

¹See ASMSU Bill No. 60-35 (November 2, 2023),

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14CrIZL7NaZgC5GoDOwxX7HV4ikIwu5IA/view>.

² See Faculty Senate Resolution FS2324R03 (October 26, 2023), <https://acadgov.msu.edu/-/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/faculty-senate/fs-2023-2024/fs-resolutions/fs2324r03-board-chairperson.pdf?rev=602ffa45d20e40aea2e1f8c637f3ac47&hash=EFB61BCD74BC6F471A0DDEECECF1379EE>.

³ See *Michigan State University Independent Investigation Report* by Miller & Chevalier (February 28, 2024), <https://msu.edu/-/media/assets/msu/docs/issues-statements/msu-independent-investigation-report--feb-28-2024--redactedupdated-links.pdf?rev=6e36cfca79374c28b9d81e4baacc0706&hash=483929D1FD6EC34599D00C3B77E870A2>

⁴ See the Board of Trustee's Executive Action Summary (March 3, 2024), [Miller and Chevalier Report Resolution.pdf](#)

⁵ [Resolution on Trustee Misconduct - Academic Congress](#) (March 14, 2024)

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review and removal of Trustees Vassar and Denno by the governor under MCL 168.293; therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the University Council endorses the actions laid out by the previously cited Academic Congress and Board of Trustees Resolutions, calls for the resignation of Trustees Vassar and Denno, and supports the removal of Trustees Vassar and Denno by the governor under MCL 168.293; and,

Resolved, That the University Council, as does the Academic Congress, condemns the retaliatory behaviors of Trustees Denno and Vassar for, exploiting students for political gain against administration and academic governance leaders, inducing a culture of fear that jeopardizes the free, open expression of civil discourse, risking the good standing of the university with its accrediting body, needlessly dividing the Spartan community, and carelessly exposing the university to potential litigation; and,

Resolved, That the University Council also commends those who bravely came forward to sit for interviews and provide information to the Miller & Chevalier investigators; and,

Resolved, That the University Council endorses the Academic Congress call for mandatory, comprehensive Trustee onboarding and annual training, designed by internal and external experts, to prepare current and future Trustees for the rigors of the role and to restore confidence in the Board from the university community.