January 3, 2019

Dear Interim President Engler and Trustees:

The Steering Committee is writing once again to indicate that we think the decision to close the Healing Assistance Fund needs serious reconsideration. Unfortunately, this issue was not considered at the BOT meeting last month.

Following are possible solutions that should be explored in response to the arguments made in support of closing the Healing Assistance Fund.

1) “The firm hired to administer the fund, investigate the claims and disperse the funds mismanaged things, charged exorbitant fees, etc.” Solution: Hire a new firm to administer the fund. Hiring a subpar firm is a failure of the MSU administration. Potential claimants should not be penalized for this.

2) “Victims as claimants in the settled lawsuit are or could request support from the Healing Assistance Fund”. Solution: A quality fund administrator should easily be able to confirm that a claimant under the settlement is not requesting support from the Healing Assistance Fund. It could be clearly articulated that claimants in the major settlement are not eligible for financial support from the Healing Assistance Fund.

3) “Everyone impacted by MSU’s failure and Nassar was part of the major settlement and few will come forward to request support from Healing Assistance Fund.” Solution: Leave the fund open for some period of time (e.g., 6-12 months) and see what claims are made. If no one comes forward during this period, then MSU will have a legitimate reason to close the fund. It does no harm and does not place MSU in any financial distress to reopen a fund and to leave it open for a reasonable period of time.

As leaders, we often have no hesitation to tout accomplishments made under our watch. Good leaders should also have the fortitude and courage to step forward and accept responsibility when negative things happen under their watch. We urge you to step forward and have the conviction to do the right thing! Send the right message to the MSU community!

MSU Steering Committee