RECLAIM MSU
GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL
The Board of Trustees at Michigan State University has appointed the most recent permanent and interim Presidents of this university without a search. The current board closed ranks around the previous President at a critical juncture, showing their loyalty to her rather than their loyalty to this institution, to our community, and to survivors of sexual assault. In addition, in the appointment of the interim President, they refused to listen to the advice of faculty, students, and deans.

It is critical that the bylaws of the Board are changed to allow full participation of faculty and students in governance. To achieve this, we propose the creation of a University Board. It is also critical that members of the MSU community play a central role throughout the process of searching for and selecting a new President, including: articulating the qualities and qualifications required for a President; having representatives from the faculty, students and staff on the search committee; and, engaging with top candidates in open forums.

Article VIII § 5 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan should be amended to create four additional positions on the controlling boards for each institution governed by section 5 (University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University).
CHANGES TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES BYLAWS
The University Board shall consist of the Board of Trustees, two regular faculty members or fixed-term faculty members with voting rights (as defined in MSU Bylaws 1.1), a graduate student representative and an undergraduate student representative (as defined in MSU Bylaws 1.2). The University Board shall consist of 12 persons. All members of the University Board shall have full voting rights on all matters coming before the University Board with the exception of the final Board of Trustees vote on the President as outlined in the State Constitution.
The faculty members of the University Board shall be elected by members of the Faculty Senate in accordance with MSU bylaws on Academic Governance; the graduate student member shall be elected by the Council of Graduate Students and the undergraduate representative shall be elected by the Associated Students of MSU in accordance with MSU bylaws on Academic Governance. Faculty and student members shall be elected for two year staggered terms.

- Election process for faculty and student members of the University Board
Regular Faculty Appointments. Appointments to the regular faculty, the salaries, tenure, leaves of absence, and changes of status therefore, shall be acted upon by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President of the University.

- **Article 7—Relation of the Board and the University Faculty, Staff, and Employees**
- Faculty may not vote on faculty appointments, salaries, tenure, etc. (avoiding concerns about conflicts of interest)
The University Board affirms that the search for a President shall be conducted with the faculty, students and staff playing a central role throughout the process, including:

- articulating the qualities and qualifications required for a President;
- having representatives from the faculty, students and staff on the search committee;
- engaging with top candidates in open forums.

The preliminary selection of a President shall be decided by a roll call vote of two-thirds majority of the University Board.
Following this vote, the Academic Congress may conduct a vote among its members. If more than two thirds of the members of the Academic Congress oppose the selected candidate for President, the Board of Trustees shall not elect this candidate as President. If less than two thirds of the members of the Academic Congress oppose the selected candidate for President, the Board of Trustees may elect this candidate as President of Michigan State University.

- If two thirds of the members of the Academic Congress should oppose the selected candidate for President, the Board of Trustees should not be able to select this candidate as President of our university.
- Essential to ensure that the search process reflects the perspectives of the MSU community.
- Board of Trustees elects President (as currently constitutionally prescribed).
These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any meeting of the University Board by after an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the University Council and an affirmative vote of a majority of the University Board, provided that copies of such amendments or notices of repeal are submitted in writing to each member in advance of such of the University Council in accordance with the MSU Bylaws and to each member of the University Board in advance of the Board meeting.

- **Article 17**—
  **Amendments**

  Requires majority vote of the University Council and the University Board to **amend or repeal bylaws**

  Ensures that faculty and student representatives on University Board cannot be removed without approval of faculty and students on University Council
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
The board of each institution shall consist of eight members who shall hold office for terms of eight years and who shall be elected as provided by law, and an additional four members who shall hold office for terms of two years and who shall be freely elected within each institution, in a process chosen by each institution. The four additional members must consist of one undergraduate student, one graduate student, and two faculty members from different colleges within their universities. The governor shall fill board vacancies by appointment.

- Constitutional changes refer to three institutions: MSU, UM and Wayne State
- Adds student and faculty representation
- Brings MSU and UM in line with other Big Ten universities
- Reduces length of Trustees’ terms from 8 to 4 years
Each appointee shall hold office until a successor has been nominated and elected as provided by law. **No member of a controlling board shall serve for more than two terms.**

- Introduces term limitations on members of controlling boards
- Reclaim MSU is working with state legislators on legislatively referred constitutional amendment.
- Proposed amendments must be agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to and serving in each house.