To: Trustee Clifton Haley, President of the College of Law  
Joan Howarth, Dean of the College of Law  
Richard Lameti, Executive Director for Business Affairs & Controller  
Trustee Raymond Behan, Secretary of the College of Law Board of Trustees  
Lou Anna Simon, President of Michigan State University  
Jacqueline Wright, Secretary to Michigan State University Academic Governance  
Manish Madan, President of Council of Graduate Students  
Associate and Assistant Deans at the College of Law

From: The MSU College of Law Student Bar Association

Date: February 20, 2009

Subject: Student Input & Representation to the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Student Bar Association (SBA) at the MSU College of Law (CoL) encouraging “Increased Interaction between the SBA and the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees (Board of Trustees).” This bill was discussed and unanimously approved at the February 10, 2009 SBA board meeting.

The focus of the bill is to ask the Board of Trustees to share more information pertaining to their meetings, and objectives. The CoL website provides little information regarding these matters, and the SBA would like this information in order to better understand current issues and future plans affecting the law school, both important topics to the student body. Concurrently, the SBA would like to gain more insight as to the budgetary and strategic planning issues facing the CoL and determine if there are areas in which the administration and SBA can help in order to maximize and develop our resources.

However, the central request of the resolution is to ask the Board of Trustees to provide for student representation on the Board’s membership. While the CoL is a non-profit corporation, and thus has a unique position, one need only look at the MSU Board of Trustees or several other university governing boards to see that student representation is integral and necessary in providing input from the very people higher education is designed to serve. The SBA would appreciate the opportunity to represent CoL students in this manner, which is consistent with our peers.

Overall, increased interaction between the Board of Trustees, CoL administration, and the SBA is meant to foster increased transparency, discussion, and collaboration. Increased student involvement can only be beneficial to the future success of the CoL, a goal we are all deeply committed to.
Student Bar Association
Michigan State University College of Law

One Hundred Seventeenth Session

BILL NO.  117-01

INTRODUCED BY:  Stefan Fletcher

A BILL TO:  Support Increased Interaction between the Student Bar Association and the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the Student Bar Association hereon referred to as the SBA, is the official governance entity representing law students at the MSU College of Law;

WHEREAS, the MSU College of Law Board of Trustees hereon referred to as the Board of Trustees, is charged with managing the affairs of the MSU College of Law;

WHEREAS, Michigan State University College of Law, hereon referred to as College of Law, operates as a corporately and financially independent non-profit corporation affiliated with Michigan State University;

WHEREAS, the SBA and the Board of Trustees are both committed to working for the betterment of the College of Law, its faculty, staff, and students;

WHEREAS, in order to achieve that goal, the SBA would like to work in a collaborative and open relationship with the Board of Trustees in order to ensure the continued improvement of the College of Law;

WHEREAS, the SBA seeks information in order to enhance its understanding of several key areas pertaining to the College of Law and its operations in order to better serve the student body, and to cultivate a sustained partnership with the administration and Board of Trustees to further the prosperity of the College of Law;

WHEREAS, the SBA believes that increased student input to the Board of Trustees is vital to the decision-making that affects College of Law students and would provide excellent opportunities to foster student leadership;

WHEREAS, the best means to provide the aforementioned input would be to have a law student representative serve on the Board of Trustees in a manner consistent with many university-level governing boards;

The Michigan State University College of Law Student Bar Association:

THEREFORE RESOLVES, to encourage the Board of Trustees to supply more information to the SBA as pertains to the Board of Trustees purpose, controlling documents, and meetings;
THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVES, to encourage the Board of Trustees and the College of Law Administration to supply more information to the SBA as pertains to its budget and as pertains to its collaboration with Michigan State University;

THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVES, to respectfully propose to the Board of Trustees that it include a student representative, with full trustee responsibilities and voting rights, as part of its membership;

THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVES, to respectfully propose that the student representative serve for a one (1) year term and be nominated & appointed by the SBA, subject to the final approval of Dean Howarth and/or the Board of Trustees

THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVES, that the SBA will work on formalizing the student representative position as relates to the SBA By-Laws and other governing documents, if such a position is agreed to by the SBA leadership and the Board of Trustees

THEREFORE FINALLY RESOLVES, a signed copy of this resolution will be sent to Trustee Clifton Haley, President of the College of Law; Trustee Raymond Behan, Secretary of the Board of Trustees; Lou Anna Simon, President of Michigan State University; Jacqueline Wright, Secretary to Michigan State University Academic Governance; Manish Madan, President of Council of Graduate Students; Joan Howarth, Dean of the College of Law; Richard Lameti, Executive Director for Business Affairs & Controller; other respective Associate and Assistant Deans at the College of Law.

INTRODUCED ON FEB. 10th, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN None DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN √ PASSED DATE 7/10/09

FAILED VOTE

Melissa Walker SBA President

Kristi Brand SBA Secretary