

Faculty Senate

Approved Resolution
September 15, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

- Whereas,* The Michigan State University Board of Trustees has declared in our Mission Statement that “we are an inclusive, academic community known for our traditionally strong academic disciplines and professional programs, and our liberal arts foundation”;¹ and
- Whereas,* The MSU Board of Trustees has declared that “our cross- and interdisciplinary enterprises connect the sciences, humanities, and professions in practical, sustainable, and innovative ways to address society's rapidly changing needs” through teaching, research, outreach, engagement, and economic development activities; and
- Whereas,* The US Department of Education in 2025 attempted to condition the receipt of federal research grants on universities that acquiesced to demands that conflict with the core mission of this institution; and
- Whereas,* The US Department of Education, via its “National Call to Action,”² is attempting again to get presidents and boards of trustees to agree to a political agenda that fundamentally conflicts with aspects of the core mission of MSU,³ therefore be it,
- Resolved,* That Faculty Senate calls on President Guskiewicz and the Board of Trustees to refuse to answer this call from the Department of Education without rigorous and thorough advice from University Council.

¹ All quotations come from the MSU Faculty Handbook, with the particular text in the first two “Whereas” clauses coming from the MSU Mission Statement, adopted by the MSU Board of Trustees on April 18, 2008.

² Press release and full text available here: <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-secretary-of-education-linda-mcmahon-issues-national-call-action-university-presidents-and-governing-boards>

³ Issues laid out here, including a quotation from an MSU professor of higher education policy: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/2026/08/10/how-should-leaders-respond-mcmahons-letter>