

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 15, 2025

President Guskiewicz called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:10 a.m. via livestream.

Trustees present: Rebecca Bahar-Cook, Mike Balow, Dennis Denno, Renee Knake Jefferson, Sandy Pierce, Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay, and Rema Vassar.

University officers present: President Guskiewicz; Senior Vice President Frace; Vice President and General Counsel Quinn; Secretary Fletcher; Vice Presidents Bollman, DeVooght, Guerrant, and Swain. Faculty liaisons present: John Aerni-Flessner and Jack Lipton. Student liaisons present: Lauren Pelan.

President Guskiewicz provided the following statement.

Good morning and welcome to the special meeting of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. Before I call the meeting to order, I just would like to thank you all for joining us, want to thank our trustees for convening. We rarely call a special meeting of the board, but there are certain circumstances by which we have time-sensitive personnel actions that we'd like to have the board consider for approval, as well as special projects that might be time-sensitive, and that is, in fact, the case today. We are excited to be welcoming our 52,000 students back to campus here over the next few days. There's a lot of energy on campus, and I just appreciate all those who have been hard at work over these past several weeks to prepare the campus for what I know is going to be an exciting new academic year. And so, with that, I will call this meeting to order and ask if there's a motion to approve the agenda.

All actions taken were by unanimous vote of the Trustees present, unless otherwise noted.

1. On a motion by Trustee Tebay, supported by Trustee Bahar-Cook, the **BOARD VOTED to approve** the proposed agenda.

2 Personnel Actions

Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs Teresa Mastin presented the following personnel actions.

Thomas Stubblefield, Ph.D.-AN, Professor, Department of Art, Art History, and Design, with tenure, effective July 1, 2025.

Miriam Vos, M.D.-AN, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, with tenure, effective August 25, 2025.

James Hintz, Ph.D.-AN, Vice President for Student Affairs, Student Affairs Vice President, effective August 4, 2025.

Federica Brandizzi, Ph.D.-AN, MSU Research Foundation Professor and University Distinguished Professor, Department of Plant Biology, for appointment as a John A Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Plant Biology, effective August 15, 2025.

Trustee Tebay **moved to approve** the recommendations, with support from Trustee Balow.

3. Committee on Budget and Finance

President Guskiewicz provided the following remarks.

The next item on the agenda I'm going to ask Chair Kelly Tebay to present, and this is for the approval for the plans of the February 13th Permanent Memorial, which I know is something that our campus has been ready to put into action, to have a special space on our campus to memorialize those who we lost on that tragic day February 13th two years ago, but also to be a place where we can support those other victims and all those who were in some way affected by this.

Trustee Tebay presented the Trustee Budget and Finance Committee Report and the following recommendations and resolutions.

A Material Change to the Landscape-February 13th Permanent Memorial

The Trustee Committee on Budget & Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to approve the material change to the landscape for the construction of a permanent memorial to commemorate those we lost, those who were injured, and all those impacted by the tragedy that occurred on the East Lansing campus on February 13, 2023.

Trustee Pierce **moved to approve** the recommendation, with support from Trustee Scott.

Judith Stoddart, Vice Provost for University Arts and Collections, provided the following remarks.

Good morning. The motion that is in front of you is the result of a two year process that started in Fall of 2023, and the goal was to provide the

opportunity for the MSU community to shape the February 13th Memorial from the beginning, and thinking about what the memorial would do on campus and how our community would interact with it, to the final design. Over those two years, through public surveys, through around 60 focus groups, through conversations with those most directly impacted by the events of February 13th, over 5,000 people participated in this process, and that included defining the purpose of the memorial, what the community wanted to see from the memorial, the mode in which they wanted to interact with the memorial and the space, and the setting and location of the memorial on campus. They provided input on the final designs that were selected and the design that is in front of you had strong support from many of those who were directly impacted, as well as from the broader MSU community through the surveys. It is in the old horticulture gardens, where there's an existing fountain now, and will be a redesign of that fountain and of enhanced and changed garden landscape in that setting to provide a place for people both to come to experience it individually, but also to gather in groups to remember those who were lost and impacted on that day.

Brandon List, campus planner, provided the following remarks.

I think Judith said it well. So, thank you Judith for that summary, and we look forward to moving forward with the next steps and bringing the artists and designers to campus here in the coming weeks, and moving the project forward. So, thank you President Guskiewicz.

THE BOARD VOTED to approve the recommendation.

4. Request to Adjourn

On a motion by Trustee Knake Jefferson, supported by Trustee Scott, **THE BOARD VOTED to adjourn** at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stefan Fletcher
Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Board of Trustees

