



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Executive Action Summary

Academic Affairs—Attachment 3

**APPROVED**  
**APRIL 10, 2026**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Date:** April 10, 2026

**Committee Name:** Academic Affairs

**Agenda Item:** Unification of the College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Information**

**Discussion**

**Action**

**Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby approve the unification of the College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine to become one, unified College to be named Michigan State University (MSU) Medicine.

**Recommendation:**

The Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the unification of the College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine to become one, unified College to be named MSU Medicine.

**Prior action by BOT:** Not applicable.

**Responsible Officers:**

- Kevin Guskiewicz, President
- Laura Lee McIntyre, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Joyce DeJong, Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Supratik Rayamajhi, Interim Dean, College of Human Medicine

**Summary:**

The president is recommending that the Board of Trustees authorize the unification of the College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine into one unified college, to be named MSU Medicine. A timeline of activities to-date and proposed next steps related to the proposed unification is in Attachment A.

Over the past 18 months, extensive analysis has been conducted to evaluate how MSU’s two medical colleges can expand opportunities and present a more unified voice with partners across the state of Michigan as part of the One Team, One Health initiative. The proposed unification is intentionally designed to preserve and celebrate the distinct identities and rich histories of these two highly respected academic enterprises.

Today, MD and DO graduates train together in residency programs under a single accreditation system. While the professions evolved along separate—and at times contentious—paths, they now share common goals, including holistic, patient-centered care, aligned foundational competencies, and unified oversight of graduate medical education.

MSU is committed to ensuring that this transition maintains the integrity, heritage, and excellence of each accredited degree program, with both the “School of Human Medicine” and the “School of Osteopathic Medicine” continuing to operate under dedicated dean leadership in the newly formed unified medical college.

A more unified and visible health presence will strengthen MSU’s ability to build strategic partnerships, create new interprofessional opportunities for students, expand existing programs, launch innovative initiatives, and more effectively meet the evolving health care needs of Michigan.

**Background:**

The College of Human Medicine, established in 1964, graduates nearly 185 students annually. With a statewide footprint, the college delivers medical education across eight community-based campuses in partnership with local hospitals, clinics, and health care providers. These campuses are in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Midland Regional, Southeast Michigan, Traverse City, and the Upper Peninsula, reflecting a strong commitment to serving diverse communities across Michigan.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine was established in 1969, following the Michigan osteopathic community’s successful effort to secure a charter to create an osteopathic medical school in the state. The Michigan Legislature enacted Public Act 162, mandating the establishment of a school of osteopathic medicine at an existing state university with a medical school. The charter was subsequently transferred to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and the college relocated to MSU’s East Lansing campus in 1971. With this action, the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine became the first university-based osteopathic medical school in the nation- a landmark, profession-defining achievement that helped catalyze the rapid growth of osteopathic medicine nationwide.

Both medical colleges are fully accredited, and the president has made clear that maintaining accreditation is a non-negotiable priority. The proposed unification will not compromise or alter the accreditation status of either program.

The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), and the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Both accrediting bodies are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and uphold rigorous standards across all aspects of medical education, including governance, faculty and staffing, facilities, curriculum, research, and student services.

**Source of Funds:**

Preliminary financial analysis has been underway. The proposed unified medical college would bring together the College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine, with a combined annual resource base of approximately \$526 million, including \$113 million in annual General Fund allocation.

As planning progresses, the goal is for the unified college to operate within the existing resources currently allocated to both colleges. While modest upfront investments (estimated \$2-3M) will be required to support new and existing student programs, marketing and communications, possible accreditation requirements and strategic priorities, these costs are expected to stabilize over time and will be offset through operational efficiencies and the redistribution of existing resources.

The executive dean position will represent a new ongoing investment for MSU Medicine; however, it will be primarily supported through the reallocation of the salary line for the executive vice president for health sciences, previously held by Dr. Norm Beauchamp, within the Office of Health Sciences. In addition, the chief financial officer position is expected to become available due to a planned retirement in summer 2026, creating further opportunity to realign existing salary resources in support of the new structure.

A program manager will be assigned to coordinate the work of the Steering Committee and working groups and to support overall implementation. The intent is to reassign an existing program manager on campus as their current project responsibilities conclude.

The Steering Committee and working groups will be composed of internal faculty and staff with extensive subject-matter expertise. This approach mirrors other university integrations, leveraging institutional knowledge to guide planning, timelines, and execution rather than relying on external consultants at this time.

Central administrative units such as Institutional Research (IR) and Organization of Interest (OOI) will remain engaged in this process and will continue to provide guidance and support. While some temporary backfill of positions may be necessary to ensure continuity of operations during implementation phases, these needs are expected to be time limited.

It is estimated that by the third year of full implementation, MSU Medicine will realize approximately \$2.5–\$4.5 million in recurring savings through administrative and leadership efficiencies. These funds will be reinvested in critical priorities to enhance student success and support the strategic recruitment of top-tier clinician-scientists.

**Resource Impact:**

The administration anticipates increased opportunities for shared resources across the unified medical college. The College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine already collaborate in areas such as Research Administration and IT, providing strong, proven models for effective integration. Building on these existing structures MSU can enhance overall operational effectiveness.

## Attachment A – One Team, One Health Initiative: Timeline & Next Steps

### June 2024

Dr. Norm Beauchamp announced his departure from his role as executive vice president for health sciences. This transition provided an opportunity for the President to assess the university's existing health sciences structure and ensure it fully leverages institutional strengths while positioning MSU for future opportunities. Given the increasing complexity of modern health care—both within the university and across external partnerships—the President emphasized the importance of a deliberate and thoughtful approach rather than a rapid structural decision.

### July 2024

The president established the **Health Sciences Council**, composed of thirteen leaders and key stakeholders from across the university.

The Council was charged with reimagining MSU's health care enterprise and served as a strategic “think tank” focused on optimizing the university's unique structure. Its responsibilities included:

- Defining key priorities and growth opportunities
- Proposing organizational structures
- Identifying and recommending new partnerships
- Recommending strategies to drive research growth and innovation

### December 2024- February 2025

After several months of engagement, the Council delivered a draft report in December 2024, followed by a final report in February 2025. The report outlined several bold strategic options, positioning MSU as a national model for integrating medical education, research, and clinical care.

Following review of the report, it became clear that MSU is uniquely positioned to lead the future of health sciences through greater integration and collaboration. As the only Big Ten university with two medical colleges, a veterinary college, and a nationally recognized college of nursing, MSU has a distinctive foundation upon which to build a more unified and strategic structure.

### February 2025

The president formally articulated his vision: **One Team, One Health**.

This vision builds on MSU's strengths across human, animal, and environmental health, positioning the university at the forefront of the One Health movement. It reflects a commitment to:

- Advancing interdisciplinary approaches to complex health challenges
- Strengthening preparedness for emerging diseases and future pandemics
- Leveraging expertise in health communications to combat misinformation
- Expanding innovation in virtual care, artificial intelligence, and medical education
- Addressing critical health care workforce shortages in Michigan and beyond

From the Council's recommendations, three bold ideas were identified for further exploration:

1. A unified medical college offering both MD and DO pathways
2. A College of Health Sciences
3. Research Network

### **April 2025**

The president established the **One Health Council** and four cross-disciplinary task forces focused on:

- Accreditation
- Unified College of Medicine
- College of Health Professions
- A cross-disciplinary research center/institute

Each task force was composed of experienced and valued colleagues charged with conducting deeper research and analysis (e.g., data collection, benchmarking) to ensure MSU has a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of each bold idea.

### **September 2025 – December 2025**

Task forces presented their findings to the One Health Council in September 2025. The Council then initiated extensive campus engagement to gather input and feedback on the recommendations.

Engagement efforts included:

- Presenting to the Steering Committee (September 2, 2025)
- Hundreds of webinars, town halls, and college/department meetings
- Direct engagement with nearly 3,500 faculty, staff, and students
- One Health Council anonymous survey with nearly 6,000 responses

All feedback was incorporated into the final One Health Council report, which was submitted to the president in December 2025.

### **March 2026**

After reviewing the Council and task force reports, the president announced the intention to move forward with the following initiatives:

1. Establishing a One Health Research Network
2. Creating a unified medical college offering both MD and DO degrees
3. Developing a College of Health Sciences

As a leading global public research university, Michigan State University must continue to act strategically, boldly, and with a strong focus on student success to meet the evolving needs of the state and nation.

These initiatives represent more than structural change—it reflects a commitment to leadership in shaping the future of integrated health sciences. Continued support and engagement will be essential as this work advances, reflecting a true **One Team** approach.

The Administration will continue engaging stakeholders and will establish steering committees and working groups to guide the next steps of these strategic priorities while approvals are secured.

### **Next steps**

Implementation planning is already underway, beginning with the establishment of a Steering Committee and a set of working groups. The Steering Committee will likely be co-chaired by the deans of the two medical colleges and include an additional 8–10 members who may serve as working group leads. These individuals will bring subject-matter expertise and provide critical insight to inform decision-making at the Steering Committee level. Faculty representation from each college will also be included to ensure broad and balanced input.

The working groups will focus on key operational and academic areas, including but not limited to: (1) Human Resources; (2) Curriculum and Accreditation; (3) Department Structure; (4) Budget and Finance; (5) Marketing and Communications; (6) Student Success and (7) Central Operations. Additional working groups may be established as planning progresses.

A program manager from the provost's office will also be appointed to support coordination, oversight, and execution of this work. The Steering Committee and working group members are expected to be confirmed by April 30, with work beginning in May 2026.

One of the Steering Committee's initial priorities will be to finalize the position description for the executive dean of the unified medical college and to establish a search committee. The goal is to launch the national search in July 2026.