



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Action Summary

Committee: Audit, Risk & Compliance

Date: June 12, 2026

Agenda Item: Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct Statement of Acknowledgement

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Information

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Review

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Action

Resolution:

See Attachment A for resolution language.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees adopts the specified actions in consideration of certain trustees' failure to comply with the Statement of Acknowledgement requirement contained in the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct.

Prior Action by BOT:

The Board of Trustees adopted the Code of Ethics & Conduct on May 15, 2020, and amended the Code on May 17, 2026.

Responsible Officers:

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

Summary:

This resolution serves as the censure of trustees for failing to comply with the Statement of Acknowledgement signing requirement set forth in Section 15 of the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct. Per the terms of the revised Code of Ethics & Conduct and the resolution approved on May 17, 2026, all currently serving trustees were required to "sign and present the Statement of Acknowledgement, unaltered and unedited, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees no later than 5:00 p.m." on May 24, 2026, the seventh calendar day following adoption of the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct. The updated Code of Ethics and Conduct calls for the Board to, among other sanctions, publicly censure board members who fail to comply with the Statement of Acknowledgement provision.

Background Information:

The Board of Trustees amended the Code of Ethics & Conduct on May 17, 2026. All currently serving Trustees are bound by and subject to the amended Code of Ethics & Conduct. The Code of Ethics & Conduct establishes deadlines for execution and return of a Statement of Acknowledgement. The Code of Ethics & Conduct further provides that a trustee who refuses to and/or fails to “timely present” the Signed Statement of Acknowledgment to the Secretary of the Board shall be sanctioned, including by public censure.

Source of Funds:

Not applicable.

Resource Impact:

Not applicable.

WHEREAS the Michigan State University Board of Trustees adopted amendments to the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct on May 17, 2026;

WHEREAS Section 15 of the Code of Ethics & Conduct requires all currently serving trustees to “sign and present a Statement of Acknowledgement, unaltered and unedited, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees no later than 5:00pm on the seventh calendar day” following adoption of such amendments;

WHEREAS the deadline for compliance with the Statement of Acknowledgement requirement expired at 5:00pm on May 24, 2026;

WHEREAS Trustee Mike Balow and Trustee Rema Vassar did not “sign and present a Statement of Acknowledgement, unaltered and unedited, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees” by 5:00pm on May 24, 2026;

WHEREAS Trustee Mike Balow and Trustee Rema Vassar have yet to “sign and present a Statement of Acknowledgement, unaltered and unedited, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees”;

WHEREAS the Code of Ethics & Conduct expressly provides that any trustee who fails to comply with the Statement of Acknowledgment requirement shall immediately be subject to sanctions, including censure;

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees retains a constitutional and fiduciary responsibility to govern Michigan State University in accordance with the Code of Ethics & Conduct;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves formal censure of Trustee Mike Balow and Trustee Rema Vassar for failure to comply with the Statement of Acknowledgment requirement set forth in Section 15 of the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics & Conduct.