

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 4, 2022

TO: Dianne Byrum
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Rema Vassar, Ph.D.
Faculty Liaison, Board of Trustees

FROM: Karen Kelly-Blake, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee

Stephanie Anthony, Ed.D.
Vice Chairperson, Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Board of Trustees Outside Counsel Investigation re: Former Dean Gupta

We had our Steering Committee today and learned that the board's outside counsel has contacted faculty and executive managers to sit for an interview regarding the Gupta dismissal. In light of [the board statement](#) released on Friday, September 30th, which contained no mention of this investigation while listing the others, this action causes us continued grave concern.

We find this action to be a continued encroachment into academic management matters outside the purview of the board. The Gupta dismissal is settled. This continued overreach denies the harm inflicted on the victim and seemingly provides cover and protection for Gupta. Additionally, paying for outside counsel using MSU funds that will fuel a Gupta lawsuit against the university seems absurd and in no way aligns with the fiduciary role of the board.

We have our regularly scheduled Faculty Senate and University Council meetings in the next two weeks. We have included resolutions for a vote of no confidence on those agendas.

We ask that you cease this investigation. We ask that you engage with professional development and board training. We ask that you do the work that is in your purview. We ask that you concede that academic and administrative management of Michigan State University resides in the Offices of the President and the Provost.

If the board cares anything about this university and the people who work here, it will cease and desist with this investigation, it will do the job it is charged to do, and it will abide by its code of conduct.



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