

February 15, 2018

State Representative Aaron Miller
Chair, House Ethics & Elections Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
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Sent via email: aaronmiller@house.mi.gov
Copy to Melissa Weipert, Clerk, House Ethics & Elections Committee,
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Representative Miller:

My colleagues and I couldn't help but notice recent legislative proposals regarding governance and leadership at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University. As you review the legislative proposals before you, I hope that you will consider input from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). Our association has years of experience helping states review and revise their public higher education governance structures and board policies and practices.

AGB is the premier organization centered on governance in higher education, and has a long history of providing leadership and counsel to boards, chief executives, organizational staff, policy makers, and other key industry leaders to help them navigate the changing education landscape. Our association is a membership organization that serves over 1,300 public and private higher education institutions and 36,000 individual board members, presidents, and senior administrators. The boards of the fifteen Michigan universities are members. For almost 100 years, AGB has advanced the practice of citizen trusteeship that distinguishes American higher education. AGB hopes to enhance institutional oversight and to stimulate cooperation with public-policy makers, government agencies, and private organizations that have a stake in the quality and effective governance of colleges and universities.

Based on several AGB engagements with UM, MSU, Wayne State, and other public colleges and universities in Michigan, my colleagues and I have some thoughts about the structure and work of these boards going forward—ideas that would reestablish accountability and instill trust and confidence in these boards as effective fiduciary bodies.

I understand that the work before your committee is complex; it is also very timely. The reforms that you are debating will have a lasting impact. I am more than willing to come to Lansing to meet with you and members of your committee to discuss these critically important issues. I can be reached by cell phone or email at 703-505-6916 or RLegon@agb.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Richard D. Legon
President, AGB

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