The following statement may be attributed to Michael Mozina, Vice President for Finance and Operations at ASMSU:

ASMSU is deeply disappointed in the unfortunate, abrupt action of the MSU Board of Trustees to continue the Administration’s bullying of student government.

In a unanimous vote, the Board unexpectedly added a resolution to the agenda requiring ASMSU to comply with the administration’s demands by July 1 or their student-supported tax would not be collected. Read by Trustee Dianne Byrum and seconded by Trustee Joel Ferguson, the amendment passed unanimously.

We were obviously surprised that this vote came up. Had we known, the president would certainly have cancelled his conference and been in attendance.

The Board resolution references audit findings that began more than five years ago, even though the administration knows these weaknesses have been addressed.

Although the Board resolution also states that the university administration only learned about these audit reports two years ago, the administration is aware that ASMSU has for years performed routine audits, reviews and financial reports which are consistently shared with the University. When errors arise, ASMSU works in close consultation with experts from Maner Costerisan in accordance with prudent fiscal practices.

The resolution supports the administration’s insistence that ASMSU replace its business office manager, a 60-year-old cancer survivor who has been a wealth of knowledge and support to ASMSU student leaders, with a university-hired employee.

It also requires ASMSU to move all of its funds to campus-controlled accounts. ASMSU cannot move funds without board approval, and the board does not resume session until September when school is in session. To comply with this would violate our own constitution.

Although administration officials have assured us numerous times to the contrary, today’s actions lead to the obvious conclusion that MSU Administration wants to silence the official voice of MSU's 40,000 students and establish a captive student government.

We sincerely hope a resolution can be negotiated before the July 1 deadline, but we cannot violate our own constitution to meet these university demands.