ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

BILL NO. 55-53
INTRODUCED BY: Horne               SECONDED BY: Hawkins
A BILL TO: Advocate for the Improvement of MSU Hazardous Weather Policies and Travel Infrastructure
THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:
WHEREAS, Michigan State University has only cancelled classes seven times since its founding for a total of ten days, and
WHEREAS, The academic week of January 26th, 2019 consisted of multiple days where many school districts in the area were closed due to hazardous weather, creating unsafe road and walking conditions, where MSU remained open, including days when Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a State of Emergency resulting from the hazardous conditions; and,
WHEREAS, Michigan State University has one of the largest campuses in the country, with a comparably inadequate public transportation system burdened by overcrowding and unpredictable delays, greatly increasing the time spent outdoors at a time when, directed by the University Physician & Executive Director of Student Health and Wellness, students should be heavily limiting time outdoors; and,
WHEREAS, Due to the lack of available student parking, many students have no other option than to walk across campus to get to class, while many professors are explicitly prohibited from cancelling classes by their deans, or have mandatory attendance policies with a grade element attached, leading to situations where students need to make a decision balancing academic success with possible physical health and safety risks; and,
WHEREAS, These issues disproportionately affect students with disabilities who may have a more difficult time getting across campus, and
WHEREAS, Emails suggesting that students “Dress warm” neither fix the underlying issues regarding winter travel on campus, nor prevent students from experiencing extreme freezing temperatures required to get to class, and
WHEREAS, Understanding that students pay tuition to attend classes and that the primary mission of the University is to educate students, it is imperative that the University takes every available action to promote and uphold students safety, especially on campus, therefore be it:
RESOLVED, ASMSU advocates that Michigan State University further develop and publicize a common sense set of policies regarding class cancellation and mandatory class attendance on days with hazardous weather carrying the potential to affect student safety; be it further,
RESOLVED, ASMSU advocates that Michigan State University develop and support better methods of traversing campus in winter months including but not limited to, increased student
parking availability, greater support for public transportation, and the increased implementation of temporary online sessions for lecture-based classes in cases of hazardous weather.

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Kiphauser
PRESIDENT

VPIA