

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**



**BILL NO. 61-107**

**INTRODUCED BY: Rodriguez (RCAH)      SECONDED BY: Radakovich (SAAC)**

**A BILL TO: Call for a Vote of No Confidence in Interim Provost Jeitschko and Reaffirm Support Against the Future Integration of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities and the College of Arts and Letters**

**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:**

**WHEREAS**, In 1965, in the changing landscape of university education under then Michigan State University President Hannah, three residential colleges were created at MSU: Lyman Briggs College, James Madison College, and Justin Morrill College. Justin Morrill College was designed as a residential, liberal arts college emphasizing international and cross-cultural studies<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, At its creation, Justin Morrill College was created to “provide a rigorous liberal education in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences; to provide a terminal degree, but encourage progression to graduate school; to seek to establish a small college community atmosphere within a co-educational residence hall by integrating living and learning facilities; to stress independent study and maximize the opportunities for students to fashion their own academic programs. Finally, the College was to have the integrating theme of international or cross-cultural understanding and service.”<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, In 1979, due to a financial crisis, Justin Morrill College was closed down<sup>3</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, In 2004, then Provost Lou Anna Simon, announced her recommendation to create a liberal and creative arts residential college<sup>4</sup> based loosely on the previous Justin

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rcah.msu.edu/alumni-friends/newsletter-trevarthen-reflection.html>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/302505350?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true&sourcetype=Dissertations%20&%20Theses>

<sup>3</sup> [https://statenews.com/article/2004/03/living\\_amp\\_learning](https://statenews.com/article/2004/03/living_amp_learning)

<sup>4</sup> [https://statenews.com/article/2004/03/living\\_amp\\_learning](https://statenews.com/article/2004/03/living_amp_learning)

Morrill College. Planning of the new college began after a vote by the Board of Trustees in 2005<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** Even in 2005, the new residential college was not meant to duplicate what was being done in the already established College of Arts and Letters, but instead “develop a culture of engaged learning and civic engagement”<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) was established in 2007 to “support students and faculty as they engage in work that challenges norms, addresses inequities and mobilizes the arts and humanities as a force of good.”<sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** In mid-August 2024, RCAH faculty and staff were notified by Interim Provost Jeitschko that there was a possibility RCAH would be merged with the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) while at their faculty retreat. On October 15, 2024, RCAH students were notified via a meeting held by Interim Dean Chambers; and,

**WHEREAS,** The proposed merger of RCAH into CAL was announced without adequate consultation with RCAH students, faculty, and staff, causing widespread uncertainty and distress within the RCAH community. The proposal for the merger did not originate from anyone in RCAH; and,

**WHEREAS,** On October 24, 2024, Interim Provost Jeitschko attended the ASMSU General Assembly (GA) to address student concerns regarding this proposed merger. However, GA Representatives were not made aware of this until a few hours before the meeting, which did not provide ample time to prepare informed questions, inform constituents, gather constituent feedback, or fully engage in a meaningful discussion, thereby limiting the effectiveness of the forum as a space for genuine student input; and,

**WHEREAS,** At this General Assembly meeting, Interim Provost Jeitschko made several remarks that directly contradicted information that was given to student leaders in RCAH earlier that day by Interim Dean Chambers; and,

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<sup>5</sup> [https://statenews.com/article/2005/11/living\\_learning\\_collide\\_in\\_new\\_college\\_option](https://statenews.com/article/2005/11/living_learning_collide_in_new_college_option)

<sup>6</sup> [https://statenews.com/article/2005/11/living\\_learning\\_collide\\_in\\_new\\_college\\_option](https://statenews.com/article/2005/11/living_learning_collide_in_new_college_option)

<sup>7</sup> <https://rcah.msu.edu/about/index.html>

**WHEREAS,** An official statement regarding the possible merger was not released by members of senior administration until October 28, 2024, four days after the passage of Bill 61-33<sup>8</sup> on October 24. The statement was released to the RCAH community via an email by Interim Dean Chambers; and,

**WHEREAS,** On December 3, 2024, the tenured faculty of RCAH released a statement to the Board of Trustees, Interim Provost Jeitschko, and President Guskiewicz, emphasizing the importance of robust stakeholder engagement to identify options that strengthen the arts and humanities at MSU while preserving RCAH's distinctive contributions to the university<sup>9</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS,** In their letter, tenured faculty advocated for a consultative process aligned with shared governance principles as outlined in Academic Governance By-Law 3.4.2.4<sup>10</sup>, and have requested the exploration of alternative administrative structures to best support the arts and humanities at MSU; and,


**WHEREAS,** At the Board of Trustees meetings held on October 25, 2024, December 13, 2024, and February 7, 2025, several public commenters spoke out against the proposed RCAH-CAL merger, expressing concerns over the lack of transparency, the absence of meaningful student and faculty consultation, and the potential negative impact on RCAH's academic identity and community; and,

**WHEREAS,** The RCAH-CAL Merger Committee was formed in late November 2024, but the official charge by Interim Provost Jeitschko was not given to the members of the committee until January 6, 2025. Members of the committee were initially told that the committee would have a different purpose when it was formed; and,

**WHEREAS,** This committee has been tasked with exploring the pros and cons of moving RCAH into CAL<sup>11</sup>, and what would be some options for that structure with a draft due April 1, 2025, and a final copy due on May 15. This is a timeline that severely limits thorough stakeholder consultation, reinforcing concerns that the committee's

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<sup>8</sup>  61-33\_Urge the BoT to Vote No on RCAH Dissolvment\_Rodriguez\_Radakovich.pdf

<sup>9</sup>  RCAH Faculty Letter to the Board of Trustees[76] (1).pdf

<sup>10</sup> <https://acadgov.msu.edu/bylaws#section3>

<sup>11</sup>

[https://acadgov.msu.edu/-/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/the-steering-committee/steering-2024-2025/2025-02-04/onedrive\\_1\\_2-5-2025/pdfattachment-b--charge-memo-to-committee-12225.pdf?rev=8c512963b23b4d3ba87eedb6ae9f7832&hash=15A7005C9FF86719F4059BC055808CDD](https://acadgov.msu.edu/-/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/the-steering-committee/steering-2024-2025/2025-02-04/onedrive_1_2-5-2025/pdfattachment-b--charge-memo-to-committee-12225.pdf?rev=8c512963b23b4d3ba87eedb6ae9f7832&hash=15A7005C9FF86719F4059BC055808CDD)

work was being directed toward a predetermined outcome rather than an open and consultative exploration of all possible administrative structures; and,

**WHEREAS**, On December 17, 2024, four days into the winter break for students, GA Representative Rodriguez was personally contacted by members of Interim Provost Jeitschko's staff to set up a meeting with the Interim Provost in the new year to discuss RCAH. The proposed meeting was set for January 31, 2025, lasting only half an hour; and,

**WHEREAS**, Representative Rodriguez was the only RCAH student contacted by the Interim Provost for a meeting, and neither the members of the Office of the President in ASMSU nor the seconder of the only bill at the time 61-33, Representative Radakovich, were informed of this outreach, raising concerns about the intent and the transparency of the request; and,

**WHEREAS**, Because of the seemingly targeted nature of this meeting, the exclusion of other ASMSU leadership, and a lack of prior communication between Representative Rodriguez and Interim Provost Jeitschko, Representative Rodriguez felt that this outreach was not due to her formal position in ASMSU, but rather because of her vocal opposition to the merger; and,

**WHEREAS**, As both a Woman of Color and an undergraduate student, Representative Rodriguez perceived this direct outreach as a form of intimidation, given the significant power imbalance between a high ranking university administrator and a student. Because of this, Representative Rodriguez requested that a faculty member of RCAH attend the meeting with her as both an advocate for her and to help even the power imbalance present; and,

**WHEREAS**, On January 22, 2025, Representative Rodriguez was again personally contacted via email by Interim Provost Jeitschko after the passage of Bill 61-54<sup>12</sup> in response to the bill. Again, Representative Rodriguez was the only one contacted, and neither members of the Office of the President nor the bill's seconder Representative Lucas were contacted regarding the bill; and,

**WHEREAS**, In this email, the Interim Provost thanked Representative Rodriguez for her engagement and reiterated the administration's commitment to a "transparent and

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<sup>12</sup>  61-54\_Oppose RCAH-CAL Merger and Support Transparent Governance\_Rodriguez\_Lucas.pdf

consultative process,” despite ongoing concerns from stakeholders about the lack of meaningful consultation and the predetermined nature of the merger discussions; and,

**WHEREAS,** The email emphasized the RCAH-CAL Integration Committee as the primary avenue for student input, even though the committee has not been allowed the ability to explore alternative administrative structures beyond a merger, contradicting claims of an open and inclusive decision-making process; and,

**WHEREAS,** The RCAH-CAL Integration Committee has been constrained in its ability to explore alternative administrative structures, with calls for meaningful consultation from RCAH faculty and students being disregarded, violating principles outlined in the Laws of Academic Governance; and,

**WHEREAS,** Concerns have been raised about the effectiveness of the RCAH-CAL Merger Committee in thoroughly addressing stakeholder concerns due to the tight timeline and a lack of clarity regarding the overall goals and scope of the committee's work; and,

**WHEREAS,** Recent announcements regarding the merger of the Colleges of Human Medicine, and Osteopathic Medicine suggest a broader pattern of forced consolidations across Michigan State University, indicating that the RCAH-CAL merger was always intended to proceed regardless of faculty, staff, and student concerns; and,

**WHEREAS,** The committee has been allotted only weekly 60-minute meetings for less than four months, a significantly shorter timeframe than what has been afforded to other administrative restructuring efforts at MSU, demonstrating a rushed and inequitable approach to decision-making regarding the future of RCAH; and,

**WHEREAS,** Despite the Provost’s public statements claiming engagement with students, the committee has yet to meet with students, and student input has been limited to a small number of isolated conversations, contradicting the administration’s claims of inclusive dialogue; and,

**WHEREAS,** The survey intended to gather student input on the proposed merger was inadequately publicized, with some CAL stakeholders only becoming aware of its existence approximately six hours before the submission deadline, exemplifying a

broader pattern of poor communication and disregard for meaningful student engagement; and,

**WHEREAS,** The rushed nature of this merger process, combined with the lack of transparency, failure to uphold shared governance, and exclusion of student voices, demands urgent action to hold the administration accountable; and,

**WHEREAS,** This vote of no confidence serves as one final call to action to ensure that stakeholders remain informed and engaged in resisting the forced restructuring of RCAH and other colleges at MSU; therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall continue to oppose any proposals to merge RCAH into CAL without a thorough, consultative process that fully engages RCAH students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners; and let it be further,

**RESOLVED,** That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall release a statement declaring a position of No Confidence in Interim Provost Jeitschko; therefore be it further,

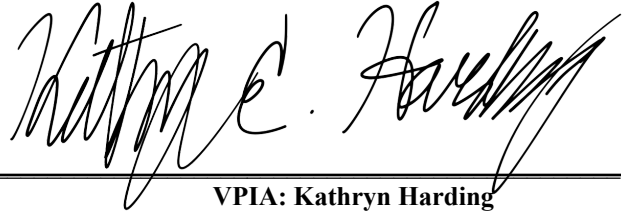
**RESOLVED,** That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall continue to advocate for the autonomy of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities during Board of Trustees meetings via liaison statements, meetings with Board members, meetings with administration, and meetings in Academic Governance.

INTRODUCED ON	<u>03.27.2025</u>		
REFERRED TO	<u>Academic</u>	COMMITTEE ON	<u>03.20.2025</u>
SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN	<u>DATE</u>		
COMMITTEE ACTION	<u>X</u>	<u>9-1-0</u>	<u>03.20.2025</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE
FINAL ACTION TAKEN	<u>X</u>	<u>22-2-5</u>	<u>03.27.2025</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Le'.

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**PRESIDENT: Connor Le**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kathryn E. Harding'.

**VPIA: Kathryn Harding**