

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



**BILL NO. 61-54**

**INTRODUCED BY: Rodriguez (RCAH)**

**SECONDED BY: Lucas (JMC)**

**CONTRIBUTORS:** RCAH Council, RCAH Sister Circle Mentoring Program, RCAH Student Ambassadors, Youth-Led Interdisciplinary Research Experience for Climate & Health And Racial Justice (YOURE(in)CHARJ), Radakovich (SAAC)

**A BILL TO:** Continue Advocacy Against the Proposed RCAH-CAL Merger and Support the Faculty's Call for Exploring Alternative Administrative Structures

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

**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>1</sup>; and,


**WHEREAS,** In mid August 2024, RCAH faculty and staff were notified that there was a possibility RCAH would be merged with the College of Arts and Letters (CAL), on October 15, 2024, RCAH students were notified, and soon after alumni and other stakeholders were notified; 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; 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>2</sup>; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rcah.msu.edu/about/index.html>

<sup>2</sup>  RCAH Faculty Letter to the Board of Trustees[76] (1).pdf

**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>3</sup>, and have requested the exploration of alternative administrative structures to best support the arts and humanities at MSU; and,

**WHEREAS**, The RCAH-CAL Merger Committee has convened twice, on January 6 and January 13, 2025. This committee has been tasked with exploring possibilities of a new administrative structure for RCAH, the pros and cons of moving RCAH into CAL, and what would be some options for that structure by the April 2025 Academic Governance deadline - a timeline that severely limits thorough stakeholder consultation; and,

**WHEREAS**, Despite faculty requests in their December 2024 letter to allow the committee to explore alternatives beyond a merger, the committee's charge to examine only the pros and cons of merging RCAH into CAL suggests that a merger is the predetermined outcome; and,

**WHEREAS**, There has been a persistent lack of transparency from MSU's senior administration throughout this process, leaving students, faculty, and staff without clear or consistent communication regarding the future of RCAH; 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**, The Associated Students of Michigan State University previously passed Bill 61-33<sup>4</sup>, which urged the Board of Trustees to reject any proposal to merge RCAH into CAL and called for greater transparency and stakeholder engagement; 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,

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<sup>3</sup> <https://acadgov.msu.edu/bylaws#section3>

<sup>4</sup>  61-33\_Urge the BoT to Vote No on RCAH Dissolvment\_Rodriguez\_Radakovich.pdf

**RESOLVED**, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall continue to actively engage with and urge the Board of Trustees to reject any merger proposal that does not result from a transparent and consultative process inclusive of all stakeholders; and let it be further,

**RESOLVED**, That the Associated Students of Michigan State University shall release a formal statement in support of RCAH remaining an autonomous college at MSU and supporting the RCAH faculty's call that the committee be allowed to explore alternative administrative structures beyond the merger, ensuring that all potential solutions are considered in strengthening the arts and humanities at MSU.

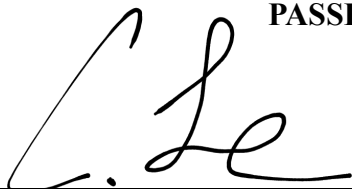
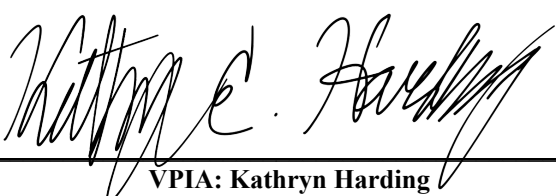
**INTRODUCED ON** 01.16.2025

**REFERRED TO** N/A **COMMITTEE ON** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN** Floor Introduction **DATE** 01.16.2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PASSED      FAILED      VOTE      DATE**

**FINAL ACTION TAKEN** X **Voice Majority** 01.16.2025  
**PASSED      FAILED      VOTE      DATE**

   
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**PRESIDENT: Connor Le** **VPIA: Kathryn Harding**