

A Resolution Condemning Regent Ronald Weiser

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

February 10, 2021

Sponsored by: Tyler Watt, Major Stevens, Max Stoneman, Joseph Lobodzinski, Chayton Fivecoat, Zackariah Farah, Alex Nguyen, Sarah Salino, Gaby Torres, Anna Colvin

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, LSA SG confines itself to advocating for the 15,000 students in the College of LSA through nonpartisan action;² and,

Whereas, LSA SG utilizes public statements and resolutions to communicate its stance to its constituents, to the University as an institution, and to the other communities that we are a part of; and,

Whereas, Regent Ronald Weiser was elected as a Regent of the University of Michigan by the voters of the State of Michigan in 2016 as a partisan elected official; and,

Whereas, LSA SG views a condemnation of a Weiser, a University official, as a duty that we take up on behalf of our student constituents, who have expressed great concern about the details published about Weiser’s statements and actions; and,

Whereas, Weiser’s partisan affiliation is of no object to our condemnation; his words and actions remain our focus; and,

Whereas, Weiser has been alleged by the Michigan Daily to have sent a message to other members of the Board of Regents that included a revealing image of an unidentified woman;³ and,

Whereas, Weiser has been alleged by the Michigan Daily to have disseminated a message to the Board of Regents that disparaged the maintenance and facilities staff of the University of Michigan;⁴ and,

Whereas, the allegations made by the Michigan Daily were rooted in actual emails sent by Weiser of which they have copies; for this reason, we have great reason to believe in their veracity;⁵ and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² See R F2020.03

³ See <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/weiser-regent-support-after-resignation-calls>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Whereas, AR 10-038 “A Declarative Resolution to call for Regent Ron Weiser’s Resignation” (hereafter AR 10-038) was introduced to Central Student Government (hereafter CSG) at their Assembly meeting on February 2, 2021; and,

Whereas, AR 10-038 was sponsored by LSA Representatives Zackariah Farah, Annie Mintun, and Liam Walsh, and has been endorsed by Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, State Sen. Jeff Irwin, and Eman Naga (College of LSA) among others and was passed unanimously by CSG on February 16th, 2021; and,

Whereas, LSA SG appreciates the efforts undertaken by CSG to advocate for their constituents, many of which our governments represent in common.

Be it therefore resolved, that a statement be adopted by LSA SG as provided in Appendix A; and,

Be it further resolved, that this statement be disseminated to the Board of Regents individually, to President Mark Schlissel, to the Michigan Daily, to CSG, and to any other recipient deemed necessary or relevant by the President of LSA SG; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG officially condemns the aforementioned actions of Regent Ronald Weiser, and joins our fellow student governments in taking action in response to these; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG expresses its concern over the potential conflicts of interest that Weiser possesses with regards to his current or former property holdings located near the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG affirms its commitment to its nonpartisan nature, as a voice for students of all political persuasions: conservative and liberal, right and left, partisan and independent, and many others; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG affirms that there exists a mandate for it to act on important matters related to student life on campus.



LSA Student Government Statement on Regent Ronald Weiser

To the Michigan Community:

February 17, 2020

On February 2, 2021, the Michigan Daily published an article that brought forth disturbing allegations concerning University of Michigan Regent Ronald Weiser. This article highlighted several statements apparently made by Weiser through his university-affiliated email. LSA Student Government, while a nonpartisan organization, plays an active role in campus affairs and finds urgency in communicating our stance on key issues to our constituents via statements such as this. It is for this reason that we condemn the email statements made by Regent Ronald Weiser, as documented in the Michigan Daily article.

One email sent by Regent Weiser to the Board of Regents refers deridingly to the Facilities staff that make our University run. We stand by them, and appreciate their hard work and dedication to keeping the University safe and healthy. We recognize the sacrifices they make and the risks they face in their field, and hope to add our voice to others that thank them for all that they do.

Another email sent by Regent Weiser was even more disturbing. This email contained a provocative photo of an unidentified woman, sent from Regent Weiser's university email to the Board of Regents. This disgusting action is the height of unprofessionalism; we must ask ourselves thus: if a student employee sent such an image, would they not have their employment terminated immediately? The answer to this question is, of course, yes. Regent Weiser must be held accountable for his actions.

Our student body has overcome countless obstacles this school year. So too will we overcome these appalling statements. As a government, we stand by the students of the College of LSA, as well as our greater Michigan community, as we come together to unequivocally condemn Regent Ronald Weiser's uncovered emails.

Always Seeking to Put Students First,

LSA Student Government