



REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION TO

Initiate an Independent Investigation

WHEREAS, one of the fundamental roles of the Board of Regents is to oversee the administration of the University of Minnesota's operations; and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota is a public institution committed to transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, an incident between a female University student and members of the University of Minnesota football team led to a report of sexual assault to the Minneapolis Police Department and to the University, resulting in suspension of four football players from the team; and

WHEREAS, the police investigation yielded admissions by five members of the football team of behavior that at a minimum reflected a lack of University values and an utter disregard and disrespect for the reporting student; and

WHEREAS, despite the admitted behavior, when the Hennepin County Attorney announced no charges would be made against the players on October 3, 2016, the administration lifted the suspension of the four players despite an ongoing University EOAA investigation and despite the Hennepin County Attorney's opinion that the players should remain suspended; and

WHEREAS, the lifting of the suspensions compelled the reporting student to seek a protective order against the four players; and

WHEREAS, after the regular football season concluded, the same facts and admissions were cited to re-suspend the four players in contrast to the October 3, 2016 decision, with six additional players being suspended. The administration's reversal on the initial suspensions and addition of individuals not alleged to be directly involved in the sexual assault led to confusion and concern among the remaining football players; and

WHEREAS, in response to their confusion and seeking clarification, team leaders announced a

boycott of a pending bowl game, leading to a national and international story detrimental to the University's reputation and standing in Minnesota and beyond; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent statements and descriptions of the events have been provided regarding the timing and basis for actions and decisions by the administration; and

WHEREAS, the lifting of the original suspensions during the EOAA investigation and the impact on the reporting student of doing so appear inconsistent with the Regents' commitment to addressing the issue of sexual assault on campus and protecting those who report sexual assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall commission an independent investigation to review and assess the facts and processes related to the above events. The report shall cover the time period of September 2, 2016 through March 24, 2017. The investigator shall provide a completed report directly to the regents no later than May 5, 2017 to clarify and confirm accountability for actions taken and to identify areas of improvement to address matters that may arise in the future.