

Resolution of No Confidence in President Designee Bill Johnson

WHEREAS: Many concerns were raised and ignored about Congressman Bill Johnson's qualifications in the wake of the announcement on the 16th of November 2023 that he was offered the position of President of Youngstown State University; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees voted 8-1 on the 21st of November 2023 to offer Congressman Bill Johnson the job of President of Youngstown State University without campus visits or meetings with relevant constituencies; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson has denied basic facts: the outcome of the 2020 election and climate science; and

WHEREAS: The employment of such a partisan figure could negatively impact potential recruitment of students and faculty, specifically international, minority, and/or LGBTQ students and faculty; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson lacks the experience in higher education that aligns with the expectations outlined in the Presidential Prospectus Booklet; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson has not been a strong communicator with all stakeholders, did not build buy-in, and has demonstrated poor efforts at helping people adapt to change; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson led many alumni and donors - faculty included - to close their wallets; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson has alienated alumni and concerned stakeholders, evidenced by over 2600 signatories to an alumni-led petition upon the announcement of his hiring; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson has demonstrated a lack of knowledge about the challenges and opportunities and inner workings of higher education from multiple perspectives, as evidenced by comments made on social media and in his November 21st press conference; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson presumes that the faculty are indoctrinating students and bringing politics inappropriately into the classroom; and

WHEREAS: President Designee Bill Johnson's stances against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion contradict the stated mission, vision, and values of YSU and may further damage our reputation and weaken any attempts to receive outside national funding that recognizes DEI; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University have no confidence in the ability of President Designee Bill Johnson to lead YSU in a manner that enables our faculty, staff, and administrators to educate and serve our students effectively; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University welcome a new Presidential Search process that is transparent, engages all stakeholders, and is firmly within the spirit of shared governance; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate participate in referendum on this resolution in accordance with the bylaws for elections. The voting shall be anonymous and the Senate Elections and Bylaws Committee shall assure the confidentiality of voting. The referendum shall be completed by the 16th of December, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to Chancellor Randy Gardner, the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University, the Student Government Association, YSU Interim President Helen Lafferty, and President Designee Bill Johnson.