

Resolution of No Confidence in the
Presidential Search Process as led by the
Youngstown State University Board of Trustees and
Vice President of Student Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness, and
Board Professional Mike Sherman

WHEREAS: Shared Governance is the transparent process by which the University community (i.e., faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and students) influences decisions on matters of policy and procedure, and/or presents alternatives on such matters¹; and

WHEREAS: At the core of successful Shared Governance is open communication among the constituents of the University and the expectation that those who will be affected by a decision on policy or procedures can be informed and can influence governance decisions by their input;¹ and

WHEREAS: The Presidential Search Process was deliberately misleading and rushed; and

WHEREAS: The only input most that faculty, students, and staff had in the Presidential Search process was a survey issued at the end of the Spring 2023 semester that received 600 responses. The results of this survey were never shared; and

WHEREAS: Due to the closed search process, conflicts of interest and representation on the Presidential Search committee are largely unknown; and

WHEREAS: The outcome of the Presidential Search process has undermined the progress made on campus to improve the climate at YSU and embrace shared governance. It has further eroded any trust between the Administration and Faculty; and

WHEREAS: The Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate was the only faculty representative on the presidential search committee despite being non-voting; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees has alienated YSU alumni and led many donors to pledge to no longer donate to the University; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees shut the Student Government Association out of the Presidential Search process; and

¹ <https://ysu.edu/provost/principles-practice-shared-governance>

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; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University expresses deep dissatisfaction with the Presidential Search Process as led the Board of Trustees and Vice President of Student Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness, and Board Professional Mike Sherman; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University welcomes 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, Higher Learning Commission President Barbara Gellman-Danley, the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University, the Student Government Association, Vice President of Student Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness, and Board Professional Mike Sherman, YSU Interim President Helen Lafferty, and President Designee Bill Johnson.