



Resolution Number:	F-19-01	Sponsored By:	President Eric-John Szczepaniak
Introduced On:	19 September 2019		
Voted On:	3 October 2019 Tabled / Withdrawn		*Withdrawn after consultation with University counsel*
Result:	WITHDRAWN		
Vote Count:			

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the Passage of Senate Joint Resolution E by the Michigan Legislature.

Recognizing, the Open Meetings Act of 1976 is not legally enforceable for boards of higher education institutions in this State due to section 4 of article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963¹ as interpreted in *Federated Publications Inc. v. Board of Trustees of Michigan State University* (1999)²; and

Recognizing, Senate Joint Resolution E³ would, by amending section 4 of article VIII, “require that the meetings of governing boards of public universities are open to the public... as prescribed by law”; and

Whereas, the Student Senate recognizes the importance of “sunshine laws” in making government processes and decisions open and readily available to the public; and

Whereas, the Student Senate asserts that public bodies should not be able to adopt policies that unduly restrict the public’s ability to address said public bodies; and

Whereas, the Student Senate asserts that refusing to allow public comment from the floor of a meeting of a public body is inherently undemocratic and a deterrent to public input⁵; and

Whereas, the Student Senate recognizes that differing parties, acting in good faith, may come to different conclusions in regards to the decision to apply “sunshine laws” to the state universities, but believes that this matter should be determined by the people of the State of Michigan;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, calls upon the Michigan Legislature to adopt Senate Joint Resolution E and submit this question to the people of the State of Michigan.

Furthermore, Let It Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be emailed to the Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Appointments Director Ghida Dagher and all members of the Michigan Legislature.

¹ [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(botsal0vtgg3p4vg0paccu2s\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-Article-VIII-4](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(botsal0vtgg3p4vg0paccu2s))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-Article-VIII-4)

² <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/mi-supreme-court/1207585.html>

³ <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/jointresolutionintroduced/Senate/pdf/2019-SIJR-E.pdf>