



MARK S. SCHLISSEL

PRESIDENT

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April 30, 2020

Debasish Dutta
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

Dear Deba,

Now that you are well into your first year on the Flint Campus of the University of Michigan, I would like to again express my enthusiasm for your leadership and my confidence in your ability to move the campus forward and build on the fine work that has been accomplished by the faculty, staff and community.

A critical component of the success of the Flint campus is a robust system of shared governance—one that includes a guiding document embraced by the faculty and the administration. UM-Flint has been governed by a Faculty Code for nearly three decades. Yet the Code was never approved by the Board of Regents or campus administration. While resolutions of faculty governance committees are advisory and non-binding, the fact that the Faculty Code was never brought to the Board for approval raises the question about the standing of the various committees in the Faculty Code that UM-Flint has been using for important matters. The current environment, with increased Board attention to the Flint campus, presents an ideal opportunity to study and make room for conversation regarding a shared governance model that will enable the campus to thrive in the years to come.

The Board of Regents is committed to the success of our regional campuses and plans in the near future to create a Board committee devoted exclusively to the Flint and Dearborn campuses. As you know, the Personnel, Compensation and Governance Committee at the March 26, 2020 Regent's meeting discussed the need to develop a Regent-approved set of bylaws for the Flint campus and the full board is in agreement. You and I will continue to work closely with the PGC Committee until the board's new Flint and Dearborn Committee is created.

I ask that you make it a high priority to establish a task force that will present recommendations for a robust shared governance structure that will support the mission of the Flint campus. As a starting point, I suggest reviews of the current Flint Faculty Code and the Dearborn Bylaws, which has been adopted by the Board of Regents. I would also support drawing on the expertise of an external consultant from the General Counsel's office. The goal will be to have a governing document prepared for us to take to the Board of Regents for approval in the early fall of 2020. This ambitious timeline reflects my commitment to the success of the Flint campus. I have every confidence that with your leadership and the commitment of the UM Flint faculty, we

will be able to address this matter and create a shared governance model that is aligned with what we have at the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses of the University of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Schlissel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the end of the name.

Mark Schlissel MD, PhD
President