

2021-22 General Board

Student Bar Association,
MSU College of Law

Resolution No. 5

April 6, 2022, Introduced by Director Zweibohmer

Supported by: President Rosberg, Vice President DeLano, Director Rejaei, Director Do, Senator Bonney

A Resolution: *To advocate for increased transparency of end-of-semester course and professor evaluations.*

Addressed To: Office of the Dean; Office of Student Affairs; Office of Faculty and Academic Affairs

Whereas, the SBA, in its pursuit to provide for the general welfare of the student body, seeks transparency between the College of Law Administration and students;

Whereas, professor evaluations are submitted by students at the end of each semester; and

Whereas, the results of these evaluations are not shared with students; and

Whereas, the students could utilize this important data in the course selection and professor selection processes; and

Whereas, making student evaluations public would provide an extra layer of accountability for professor conduct and academic standards.

Whereas, other colleges, universities, and law schools in the Big Ten and elsewhere around the country already implement similar programs, including:

- a. University of Michigan Law School
- b. Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
- c. University of Maryland Carey School of Law
 - i. Facilitated by the UMD Student Bar Association
- d. Yale Law School
- e. Harvard Law School
- f. University of Chicago Law School
- g. New York University School of Law
- h. Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
- i. University of Texas School of Law
- j. University of Florida Levin College of Law
- k. Texas A&M University School of Law
- l. Tulane University Law School
- m. Wayne State University Law School

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Resolved, it is the sense of the MSU Student Bar Association that:

- (a) The MSU College of Law has taken insufficient steps to allow students to select confidently which courses and professors they would like in upcoming semesters;
- (b) The Office of Student Affairs should explore options for providing students with information derived from course and professor evaluations;
 - a. This could be done, for example, by asking students to rate their satisfaction with their professor and their course on a numerical scale, and the data could be posted in the web catalog,
 - b. This data would hold professors and the school administration accountable and encourage quality instruction.
 - c. Students should also have an opportunity to provide input with regard to the actual format of the evaluation, whereby they may suggest new questions or adjustments for future years.
- (c) Third-party websites such as RateMyProfessor are incomplete. It would be best for the law college to provide a complete profile of courses and professors with data coming directly from students who have been verified as having taken the relevant course subject to the following guidelines or something similar:
 - a. To encourage good faith participation, with the exception of incoming 1Ls for the fall semester, students will only receive access to their evaluations if they submit theirs; and
 - b. Professors shall have the opportunity to “flag” particular evaluations for inappropriate content, which shall be reviewed by the Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs to determine whether information should be redacted or removed; and
 - c. To avoid workplace conflict, only students may access this system.

VOTE TOTALS:

___ 19 ___ YEAS

___ 0 ___ NAYS

___ 0 ___ ABSTAINING

_____ NOT VOTING

Emily Rosberg

Emily Rosberg, President