

**MEMORANDUM**

October 24, 2023

**TO:** Chancellor John Sharp  
**FROM:** Senate Speaker, Tracy Hammond  
**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Interim President Welsh

Chancellor Sharp:

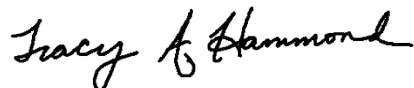
The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate knows that this is an extraordinarily difficult time for the university, given the controversies of the past summer and the efforts to put them behind us and move on.

We also greatly respect Interim President Welsh and his work to date leading the university.

However, we also believe that an open search or a vetting process led by the faculty senate for a permanent president would enhance the reputation of the Board of Regents and System officials, and it would validate the appointment of the new president. Giving the university—faculty, staff, and students—the opportunity to weigh in on the person who may be appointed to take our institution forward is critical at this juncture in time.

We stand ready to work with you in a transparent process in any way you believe would be productive.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracy Hammond'.

Tracy Hammond, Speaker  
On behalf of the Executive Committee