

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

RE: Written statement for Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee Regent Nomination Joint Committee meeting

To members of the Joint Committee:

Over the last few months of my candidacy for student Regent, I have reiterated two points regarding my involvement on campus and interest in this role. First, I am a Ph.D. candidate, studying higher education, specifically academic freedom. Second, I am involved in shared governance at the University of Minnesota and am a current member of the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

On Friday, March 14, 2025, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents voted to impose institutional neutrality on the University of Minnesota. I was very disappointed to see the work of the University Senate, Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, and the President's Task Force on Institutional Speech disregarded in the writing and passing of this resolution. As someone who studies academic freedom, I am deeply concerned about the passing of this resolution and the chilling effect it will have on academic freedom and campus speech. Imposed institutional neutrality is not neutrality – it is censorship.

I cannot continue to seek nomination as a student Regent to a Board who is willing to override and disregard the work of shared governance. Please accept this written statement as my withdrawal from the nomination process.

Thank you to members of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council and members of the Joint Higher Education Committees for your support and engagement throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Madeline Rowe