

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

February 14, 2017

Mrs. Kathie Klages  
Women's Gymnastics, Head Coach  
Michigan State University  
312C Jenison Field House  
East Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Kathie:


I write to follow up on the meeting we had yesterday morning to discuss the University's review of allegations that members of the women's gymnastics team were discouraged from cooperating with the ongoing law enforcement investigation of Dr. Nassar.

The allegations appear to relate primarily to a meeting held with the gymnastics team on September 12, 2016. We understand the purpose of the meeting was to inform the student-athletes of the breaking news story regarding Dr. Nassar, provide advice on responding to media inquiries, and offer any necessary support and resources. Interviews with student-athletes, coaching staff (including you), and other athletic department staff confirm that the focus of the meeting was on communications with the media, not law enforcement.

Those interviews also confirm that at the conclusion of the meeting you shared with the team your highly emotional sense of shock regarding the allegations against Dr. Nassar. That resulted in several student-athletes leaving the meeting feeling that they had received mixed messages. Others felt confused about who they could or should speak with about the situation. While I acknowledge you provided student-athletes with information about reporting to the Office of Institutional Equity, your passionate defense of Dr. Nassar created an emotionally charged environment for the team. That has not abated and my concerns led me to suspend you with pay.

You have since notified me that after thoughtful consideration of all the circumstances, you intend to retire from your coaching position effective immediately. You have also assured me that you will continue to cooperate fully with any law enforcement or University investigations regarding Dr. Nassar.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Hollis  
Director of Athletics

CC: Lou Anna K. Simon, President  
Richard Bader, Associate Director of Athletics  
Megan Vanderveen, Assistant Director of Athletics



Mark J. Hollis

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