Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts. MSU Trustee Candidate Mike Balow is attempting to re-write history.

I am the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee at MSU, and a fiscal conservative. When the pandemic hit, MSU was hemorrhaging money. Difficult decisions needed to be made to offset losses across all operating units. One of those decisions resulted in the elimination of the Swim and Dive Varsity sport programs. In the past 25 years the men’s swim and dive program finished at the bottom of the Big 10 23 seasons, and second to last two times. The women’s program finished last or second to last 23 seasons. This is not a “ridiculous program cut” These were fine student athletes, but tough times call for tough decisions. As a result of this, Mr. Balow’s daughter sued MSU. I ask you, how can you represent a university you are suing?

The Larry Nasser tragedy represented the darkest days in MSU’s history. I never heard of Larry Nasser until the story broke in 2016. Under Attorney General Bill Schute’s leadership a thorough investigation of the Nasser scandal was conducted. Investigations were also conducted by the Office of Civil Rights, Clery and HHS. Under the leadership of John Engler a settlement was reached, a large part of which was reimbursed with insurance coverage. Attorney General Dana Nessel, in her self-serving way for her own political gain, was not satisfied with the work of Bill Schuette and demanded that MSU to waive attorney client privilege. Is Balow siding with Dana Nessel?

The attorney-client privilege is a fundamental legal right that applies to all individuals and institutions in the United States. The scope of privilege is narrow. The attorney-client privilege only applies to confidential communications by a client to its attorney that are made for the purpose of obtaining legal advice. It does not protect against the discovery of facts. Facts are not privileged. In December the Court of Appeals dismissed charges against former President Lou Anna Simon. We have made significant changes in our Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct processes, policies and systems aimed at preventing sexual misconduct. There is more work to be done.

In 2017 MSU established a 10 million dollars Healing Fund for Survivor’s counseling and mental health services. The establishment of this fund was supported by the entire Board of Trustees.

Under my leadership former Governor John Engler was hired to move the university forward.

In 2012 I traveled to South Africa with an official MSU delegation that met with alumni, study abroad partnerships, and representatives from the U. S. Embassy and U. S. AID to name a few. I reimbursed 100% of the cost of travel for my husband and the majority of the cost of my trip.

As a member of a minority party on the Board for years, I have advocated for bi-partisanship to move the university forward. Simply stated, it is working with the hand I have been dealt.