



2016-2017

Senate

May 1st, 2017

Bill: SRSD050129

Sponsor/s: Anthony Bernicchi, Senior Senator.

Co-Sponsors: Lauren Drake, Sophomore Senator; Sam Comfort, Senior Senator; Justin Chan, Senior Senator; Julia Taylor, First Year Senator.

Title: GSBA resolution in support of the Student Divestment Policy

Purpose: To outline official GSBA support for the Student Divestment Policy, which submits a request for the Board of Trustees to divest Gonzaga's Endowment from the current 200 most carbon intensive companies by 2020.

Text:

Section 1: Whereas, the Student Divestment Policy presents the context of student opposition to social injustices, as outlined in the following text regarding Gonzaga's humanistic vision and environmental sustainability,

We now ask for our university to once again embody our humanistic mission by divesting from fossil fuel companies whose goals contradict our mission to care for the planet. As Gonzaga's divestment in the Apartheid era demonstrated, and as the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investment policy adopted by the Board of Trustees Investment Committee affirms, our community recognizes that our investments are an integral part of our identity as Jesuit institution. If we are to fully carry out our mission, our financial interests must be representative of that goal.

Section 2: Whereas, the student group in charge of the resolution, GEO (Gonzaga Environmental Organization), outlines their methods of resolution development, outreach to administration, and facilitation of student support, in the following text:

Last year, we, a group of devoted and passionate students of Gonzaga Environmental Organization (GEO) formed a committee specifically focused on the divestment from fossil fuels at Gonzaga. Our student group has successfully created and maintained a movement on campus which continues to grow each week. Our committee has created a resolution signed by more than 300 community members so far, met with faculty representatives to advocate for the Board of Trustees to purchase a screening tool which assessed its holdings in fossil fuels, and created a speaker series to foster education around this issue. Throughout our movement thus far, we have been grateful to work with, not against, the University administration. Evidence of this partnership can be found in the Office of the President's funding of the 2016-2017 Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Speaker Series. Encouraged by these developments, we will continue to work until the University successfully carries out its divestment from fossil fuels.

Section 3: Whereas, the Gonzaga Environmental Organization provides comprehensive scientific, financial, and moral arguments in favor of university divestment. The policy also includes a section regarding potential opposition arguments to divestment, while providing credible counterpoints to support the divestment proposal.

Section 4: Therefore, GSBA supports the advancement of the Student Divestment Policy, as outlined in the following text,

We, the undersigned student leaders, request that Gonzaga University's Board of Trustees commit to divest Gonzaga's endowment from the current 200 most carbon-intensive companies by the year 2020.¹ Doing so will formally recognize the reality and urgency of the climate crisis and show fidelity to our Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic mission and to our endowment Investment Policy and Guidelines.

President

Speaker of the Senate

¹ The Fossil Free Index tracks the top 100 public coal companies globally and the top 100 public oil and gas companies globally, ranked by the potential carbon emissions content of their proven reserves <http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/>.

