

The Resources Committee of the CPUC - Introduction

September 25, 2017

Purpose of the Committee

- Established in 1970 to consider questions of general policy concerning the procurement and management of the University's financial resources.
- Charged with determining whether and when to recommend that the board of trustees divest and disassociate from a particular company or set of companies.
- Authority for making divestment/disassociation decisions is vested in the Board of Trustees.

How the Resources Committee Works

- May consider policy issues on its own initiative or in response to proposals from community members or groups.
- Proceeds deliberately to inform itself about the issue and to assess the level of community interest and whether there is community consensus.
- Following deliberation, determines whether to bring recommendations to the trustees.

Policies Regarding Divestment

- Princeton's policies are based on a "strong presumption against the University as an institution taking a position or playing an active role with respect to external issues of a political, economic, social, moral, or legal character."
- This presumption helps to protect the openness of the University to competing ideas and its commitment to donors to use their gifts to support Princeton's educational mission.
- Princeton has divested/disassociated twice, in response to apartheid in South Africa and genocide in Darfur.

Guidelines for the Resources Committee

Adopted by Trustees (1997):

- “Considerable, thoughtful, and sustained interest on campus involving the actions of a company or companies”
- “Direct and serious contradiction with a central University value”
- “Consensus on how the University should respond to the situation” (consider the magnitude, scope, and representativeness of the expressions of campus opinion)

2017-2018 Agenda

- Continue to pursue the issue of divestment from the private prison industry
- Continue to enhance committee web site and other information to clarify the role of the committee
- Consider other policy issues that the committee may identify

2017-2018 Committee Membership

- Blair Schoene, Associate Professor of Geosciences, Chair
- Bo Honoré, Class of 1913 Professor of Political Economy
- Michael Littman, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Colette Johnson, Graduate Student, English
- Grace Obiofuma, Class of 2018
- William Pugh, Class of 2020
- Carolyn Ainslie, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer
- Janet Finnie, Director, University Health Services

Sits with the Committee:

- Cecily Swanson, Director of Studies, Mathey College
- Susan Ciniglio, Princeton University Investment Company
- Brandon Gaines, Office of Finance and Treasury

Contact Information

- To contact the Committee for questions or to request a meeting, please send an email to resources.committee@princeton.edu.
- Additional information can be found on our website: <https://cpucreources.princeton.edu/>.