



**Public Comment
November 11, 2022**

1. Robert Scala, Alumni; Parent

Submitted written comment.

I would like to speak to a committee member that is responsible for the policies and protocol related to handling harassment and other potential harmful events between students and the absence of a process (or consistent application of existing processes) that protects all parties in the interim while a proper investigation is completed. I also believe that staff training and/or individuals in these critical roles may lack the proper qualifications to be effective to safeguard our students and protect the University from negligence (i.e possess the requisite training and experience to properly assess the level of exposure and potential for harm in these situations). Not only are the students involved at risk, but liability to the university should they not intervene upon a proper assessment when an allegation is reported to avoid any potential harm - as stated in the Student Code of Conduct. The Policy states that this individual and that the University can implement interim actions using their professional judgment to address a threat to health or safety of any person etc. This process is not being followed and or applied. I welcome the opportunity to provide more details so that an objective and independent oversight may occur to validate these observations. Unfortunately, I have been unable to have anyone respond to our concerns. I sincerely hope that PSU governance process is in place and can at least hear these observations. If this is not the forum, I would appreciate referring me to the responsible oversight party. Thank you.

2. Rose Litvak, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Board of Trustees,

We hope you are doing well. We are EcoAction, Penn State's oldest student-led environmental organizations, and we are writing regarding the topic of fossil fuel divestment.

Penn State has been making great strides toward sustainability in the past few years and are acknowledging the need for drastic changes before irreversible damage is done. One of such initiatives is the Carbon Emissions Reduction Task Force which was released last semester and outlined the steps Penn State would like to take to gradually eliminate greenhouse emissions by 2035 on all Penn State campuses. This includes using electric cars for personnel, upgrading infrastructure for heating and cooling of buildings, expanding our solar energy capacities, and

much more. The introduction of such a task force is an essential step for the betterment of the local, state, and national environment, as well as Penn State's general wellbeing.

While the task force specifically outlines how renewable energy will be incorporated into the Penn State system, there is no mention of divestment from fossil fuels. The state of Pennsylvania annually burns a large amount of oil, coal, and natural gas, which Penn State uses to power its infrastructure and projects. Penn State also receives financial assistance from fossil fuel investors and companies. For many years, EcoAction and other clubs have advocated for divestment, which would open the door for the use of renewable energy and allow for a cleaner, healthier, and stronger Penn State future. Unfortunately, all previous efforts were shut down.

In 2021, UPUA, Penn State's student government, held a referendum in which 91% of students voted to support divestment, noting that it was crucial for the future of our state and university. In recent years, many universities across the country have started divesting including the University of Maryland, Rutgers University, and University of Michigan. We believe that Penn State can be the next to join.

We believe that fossil fuel divestment is crucial, now more than ever, and can easily be implemented in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Task Force. We would like to receive your support on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

EcoAction

Rose Litvak (President)
Carlin Blash (Treasurer)
Ryan Swartz (Events/Social Chair)
Grace Wills (Activism Coordinator)
Paris Gizzi (Secretary)
Kara Ryan (Social Media Chair)