Board of Trustees



Public Comment November 10, 2023

1. Taran Samarth; Alumni - Submitted written comment Penn State Investment Council and Endowment;

In late October, Penn State students, alumni, and faculty filed a complaint with the Attorney General alleging that the University's investments in fossil fuels flagrantly violate the duties of care, loyalty, and fealty to the University's charitable purpose enshrined in the PA prudent investor rule. Investments in fossil fuels including natural gas are a toxic bet against Pennsylvania: studies show that children who live near fracking sites are more likely to be diagnosed with lymphoma and leukemia, all while Penn State's endowment profits from the claimed 5% of the fund in fossil fuels. (And students—in a vicious cycle—dedicate their time and hearts to fundraise for the families of pediatric cancer patients in PA.)

Meanwhile, major American universities who publicly report their holdings declare substantial investments in military corporations like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon—companies whose equipment is used to commit apparent war crimes. In recent weeks, aerial weapons and bombs have been used to destroy universities and primary schools in Gaza. That some academic institutions profit from the destruction of others and the implosion of people's educational dreams is horrifying + at odds, yet again, with the charitable purpose of all universities.

As with many pieces of institutional information, Penn State does not transparently report its endowment holdings.

Do Board members know—and can the Board publicly state—how much is currently invested in fossil fuels? How much is currently invested in arms manufacturers and defense corporations? Have PSIC members wrestled with the moral gravity of financing these industries?

Or, more simply: how much of the University endowment is invested in death?

2. John Miller, Staff; Alumni - Submitted written comment Injury

Hi, I was injured at work. I have been dealing with injury for over a year. The insurance company did not take care me and I tried to be patient but it's affecting me at work. I want to thank you and hope someone will reach out to me about my situation.

3. Scott Cummings, Alumni; Prospective parent – Submitted written comment

Anti-Israel / Pro Palestine protests;

Why are you tolerating the anti-Israel hate speech? The university needs to stand up to this. No hesitation. There is no space for this on campus. My daughter is looking at attending PSU and I will not

consider sending her here if you cannot stand up for what is morally right. If you allow this to brought to campus any longer, I will join the \$1 pledge campaign. No More MONEY.