



Sarah Schmidt Speaker

2094B Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
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56th General Assembly
Spring 2023, Session 23
March 6th, 2024

I. Opening

a. Call to Order

6:31

Schmidt: I want everyone to properly be heard and their opinions can be expressed so our senators can hear you out. First, I want to address the senators themselves. Please make sure we are not having any side conversations and remain present throughout the full meeting. This means during transition time as well, please be quiet. If I have to remind you not to talk when you're called on multiple times, I will have to ask you to leave the room for the duration of today's meeting. For questions, we will be using the QR code that is provided in front of you senators as well as it should be in your group meeting as with this moment. And I created a new one so I can't see your name so we don't have that error that was held last time. Please refrain from adding your name to the speaker's list until the conclusion of a speech where you'll have the opportunity to ask questions to the speaker at fourth. If at any point you have a procedural question please state a point of information or a point of parliamentary procedure or a point of order and I will address it. That goes for seeing as well you may unmute yourself or you can type that you have a point of information or so on into the GA Group Meet so that your point can be properly made. I do want to introduce Senator Diaz, who is currently in charge of our Group Meet, and will help to oversee that process and ensure that the group me is adequately heard so the senators don't do are adequately heard as well. Again, now to the members of the public, I want to ensure that each and every one of you will have your chance to be heard. In order to do that, I ask that each individual who wants to be heard, fill out a QR code that I will have posted later in the slideshow when we begin to go into open forum. The order of this response is with the order that we move down through our public forum list. Additionally, I will call all members of the public to the same standard of interruption and speak out loud that I will do centers and will not tolerate it. And if I have to remind you more than once to be quiet during this meeting or to stop disturbing the meetings of the meetings and continue to take place I will have to remove you from today's meeting for violating any of our by law interactions. During speeches everyone in the room rest will remain silent. Additionally if you for any reason have to leave during today's meeting you cannot re-enter your spot you're forced to go to the back of the line and then recome in through that and if we get through the line you can re-enter however I don't see that happening and on God will be managing our door using the back. With that I want to address our zoom today we have



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both an in-person and zoom option so that individuals can all come today and we want to ensure that those on Zoom are properly participating to the fullest of their ability. I ask that everyone remain muted until I call on you. Senators direct all procedural questions to Senator Diaz, through the GA group meet, or unmute yourself to ask during the proper time. If you have a question for a member of the public after a speech, please add yourself to the speaker list at the conclusion of their speech And that link is in the group page. Again, that is the new link for senators who are on the field from last week. Additionally, members of the public, if you would like to speak, please add your name to the correct speaking list. We'll show you that later in today's slideshow. And I will also hand out individual paper ones so that you have access to scan it if you want. Again, I want to thank everyone for coming out to speak and to thank the public for being here with us today. And I want to first open the floor to any senators who have procedural issues and questions. And if it's a senator who has a procedural question, please raise your hand now. I will now yield time for Julius McIntyre to speak on behalf of our president and vice president

McIntyre: Thank you all for being here, I'm Julius McIntyre, I am the chair of the undergraduate caucus and like Sarah our speaker Schmidt said President McAlpine and vice president Mason could not be here so I have it later on their behalf that I'll be meeting to you all. Hello everyone and welcome to the general assembly meeting. We are both usually there in person and present for all these proceedings, but just yesterday, Bobby was rest of the ER for an extreme health emergency and we are writing this from my house. First off, thank you all for the wishes that everyone was saying Bobby's way. And we sincerely apologize for our absence at this important event. Right now we are both focused on body's health and regardless we will be on zoom throughout this entire meeting listening to the concerns of participants. Though we as president and vice president have no say in any election proceedings we understand the anger and frustration that comes along with this situation especially with the lack of clarity about what has been about when this will be resolved. Honestly we've just left we were just left as confused and frustrated as many of you when we heard this news. These are unprecedented times and we want to thank you all for making your voices heard. Right now the judicial panel is working to rectify whatever mistake they made and we call on the judicial panel and administration to assure that this appeals process is fair and transparent with the entire student body. Again thank you for being here and if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the judicial panel email at usdelection.lowestu.edu or to the Office of Student Life and I'll be one time back this week.



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- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance
- d. Swearing in of Alternates
 - Hensley.313
 - Migliore.28
 - Stegemiller.8
- e. Approval of Minutes

Walkup: There was a quote that I did not say, I do not know who said it. Page 11, Are you really tied to that number?

Price: I think that was me can you provide more context.

Walkup: The quote was “Are you really tied to the hard threshold of the number or would you think about including, like that's what you have to get to steering. But say the speaker at her discretion would be allowed to implement the new Emissary seat for less than 150 people to have an emissary seat. Would you add language to say 150 signatures, or the discretion of the speaker, like could the speaker at her discretion, be able to add it an emissary seat? So that groups that are small but maybe fit the bylaws and an emissary like Native Americans would be able to still have that voting right.”

Price: yes that was me.

II. Open Forum for the Public

Schmidt: Fill out google form to decide when to speak. I will not tolerate speaking during or in between any speeches. I will open it to the senators for any procedural questions.



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Deerman: after open forum speaks, do they leave? After the open forum speakers leave, are they going to leave one at a time and leave as a collective after everybody knows spoken?

Schmidt: So they are welcome to stay for the entire duration of our meeting until we enter a executive session. If they want to leave after they just speak, they're welcome to, but they will not be allowed to re-enter. A different individual who is currently waiting in line outside will be allowed to re-enter in their place.

Davis: Speaker list for senators, will that be cleared for each speaker?

Schmidt: Yes, we will

Braziel: Motion to limit questions to 2 for each speaker this motion is essentially to limit the amount of discussion to, two questions for the speaker. So this motion will limit the amount of questions for a speaker to two questions from each one senator. Each senator can ask one question.

Debate:

Saini: I do not want to limit speakers, its important that we let the public speak and we can hear their voices.

Colish-Patrick: I want to let these people be heard and its our responsibility to do that

Davis: We should allow as many people as possible to speak on this and ask questions where we see needed.

Ginsberg: I think it would be wise of us to begin, see how it goes, see how many questions we're actually getting this is an issue, if it becomes an issue we can bring the motion back up, it's always an option, we can make a motion, so I think we should just go ahead as we have and see where we're at.

Kerner: I am the undergraduate trustee; how many people are in the open forum queue? how many people do we currently have in the open forum queue of the open forum queue.

Schmidt: 50



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Vote: 12-13-6 motion fails

- Adam Kling.67: I am a Jewish Zionist. What Zionism means to me. How can someone define Zionism if they are not one. Zionism means this not that. It means a Jewish democratic state. I'm a 30-year student studying biomedical engineering but more importantly I am an extremely proud Jewish Zionist. Notice how I did not separate those two words. Jewish Zionist. First of all, I would like to address what Zionism means to me and what it means to the Jewish people. Jews are one of the only minority groups that are not given the right to define our own identity and the hatred we experience. Zionism is simply the belief in a Jewish state in the land of Israel. For the Jewish people to have the right to self-determine in their ancestral homeland. Zionism is a recognition of Jewish liberation from 2,000 years of endless and relentless persecution. Zionism does not mean a Jew-only country, but a Jewish democratic state with equality for all citizens regardless of race, religion, or gender, as it is stated in the Israeli Declaration of Independence. It's also the home of the Palestinians who also have the right to self-determine on that land. It's both of our homes and we can unite around the love of the land instead of allowing it to divide us. For me, Zionism means much more. My family survived the pogroms in Lithuania and survived the Holocaust. A few years back I had the opportunity to travel to a city called Sva in northern Israel. To this land, that the Jewish people have to this land, that Palestinians have to this land, makes this one of the greatest and most meaningful places in the world and in this room. BDS is not and will never be the solution to this conflict. May we all wish for a safe return of all the hostages in Gaza, Hamas to surrender, It is both of our homes. We can unite around the love of that land. My family survived the holocaust. Jewish and Palestinian people are so connected to this land. May we all come together.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Seeing none I will open it to the floor, any questions from senators please raise your hand
 - Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Jordan Vandersluis.5: On Oct 7th, Israeli citizens woke up to war. People were subjected to death and torture. It is heartbreaking to hear that any life is lost. The



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purpose. Divestment is part of a global strategy. Hamas are supporters of this movement. This is not heroic and reasonable to kill 1200. Israel wants peace and

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- Jessica Lebowitz.32: Condemnation of sexual violence is important. Violence is universal suffering that must be addressed. The video that went viral on social media should have been graphic and gruesome enough for people to understand. Students post videos. Allowing BDS will be horrible for us. The video went viral on social media should have sent a shiver through everyone's spines, not provoke support to empower their perpetrators. Videos of women who had their wrists and ankles tied with duct tape, blood covering their bodies, screaming and crying for help from the people videoing them. The New York Times wrote testimonies from witnesses on October 7th with graphic and gruesome details. They interviewed a woman who witnessed such a traidgey while in hiding, and they write, she saw a woman shredded to pieces. While one terrorist raped her, she said, another pulled out a box cutter and sliced off her breast. One continues to rape her and the other throws her breast to someone else while they play with it, throw it and it falls on the ground. She set the men slice her face and then a woman fell out of view. I have seen students on this campus post egregious graphics, videos and essays, boasting about the discussing Hamas terrorists who committed these acts. On October 8th, the BDS movement published a statement calling the act heroic, reasonable, and a powerful armed reaction. By allowing



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BDS onto our campus, we are warmly opening the door for this dangerous Hamas ideology. BDS is not the answer for our campus. Please condemn rape, anti-Semitism, and reject BDS.

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- Sadie Klaff.4: My name is Sadie and I come to you concerned about lies and misinformation being spread on our campus. This not only perpetuates the conflict in the Middle East but also prevents students on campus from having respectful and informed dialogue. One of the most concerning trends we see is the misappropriation of words like genocide which are used in an attempt to erase the complexity of the situation and paint Israel as an ultimate evil. The word genocide has a definition. The International Court of Justice, which is the highest court in the world, just ruled that they will not require an immediate ceasefire, indicating that they do not believe a genocide is occurring. With all due respect, words have meanings, and genocide does not apply to this situation. Wars are horrific, and we can mourn the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza without misusing words in an attempt to demonize Israel. We are here not because we are complicit in genocide, but because we are supporting a sovereign country's right to defend itself. Hamas, a recognized terror organization committed an unprovoked and un-presidential, brutal slaughter of Jews, Muslims, Israelis, and Tours from all over the world. Their main target was innocent civilians. Israelis and Palestinians are both needlessly suffering because of Hamas' brutal attack on October 7. On October 8, the BDS movement called Hamas' rape, torture, murder



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and kidnapping powerful in our very own S.J.P. at Ohio State called it heroic resistance. Passing BDS on this campus will do nothing to alleviate the suffering on the ground, but it will align our campus with a terror organization that is responsible for this war. Everyone in this room wants to see the tragedy of this war end. The only way it is going to end is for the hostages to be released and Hamas to surrender. BDS is not the answer.

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- Hiba Latif.38: 121 days of genocide. We demand that issue 29 is brought back. We want USG and OSU to do this. President was threatened by deportation to not sign this. This is undemocratic and not ok. This is a human rights issue. We demand issue 29 be brought back This day 151 of offenses genocide. 151 days of brutal killing and bombings of Palestinians by Israel. We demand this university to bring back issue 29 and have the students vote on it. We demand the USG senators to introduce an emergency resolution stating the actions taken against our divestment issue 29 that was biased and racist and to hold a special election for our initiative as soon as possible. BDS is to boycott, divest, and sanction companies that are violating Palestinian human rights because Palestinians are humans too. In 2022, the USG executive board passed a resolution demanding that this university divest and cut all ties with its investments in HP and Caterpillar. Companies that violate Palestinian human rights in Palestine. The undergraduate student government passed a resolution, 54R39, with a majority



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vote of 14 to 8. However, the president of USG at that time, Jacob Chang, did not sign on it because he was threatened by the opposition of deportation due to his student immigration status. This is not the first time we see the opposition and other suppressive measures against Palestinian students. USG is supposed to be representative of the undergraduate student body here at OSU, whether they uphold it or not. And it's not up to them or the OSU administration to remove an issue that we fairly put on the ballot before coming to conclusion on whether students want to fight us or not. This is undemocratic and this is definitely unconstitutional. Our issue number 29, or just university, to remove its investments in companies that are violating human rights in Palestine. This is a human rights issue and you cannot remove an issue while students are in the middle of an election. In 2022, when USG passed the resolution into the 54th assembly to divest from corporations, complicit in Israel's war crimes, it was very symbolic of what the students wanted and it's even more true now. Again, we demand this university to bring back issue 29 and have the students vote on it. And we demand that USG see the issues and we demand the USG senators to introduce an emergency resolution stating the actions taken against our divestment issue.

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- Umayma Omar.109: As a student here, I am disappointed and deeply disturbed that OSU removed this issue on the ballot, especially considering the profound impact it has on students. This action not only disregards our rights as students,



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but also undermines the very essence of student involvement in shaping campus policies and decisions. We passionately advocate for this issue because we firmly believe in upholding ethical standards and divestment processes. Moreover, it is crucial to recognize the ramifications of investing in companies that contribute to the oppression of Palestinians. These corporations provide technologies used to enforce segregation, conduct surveillance and restrict the movement of Palestinians perpetuating systemic injustice and human rights violations. These are the same companies that are complicit in the demolishment of Palestinians homes which are further exacerbating the harms of an already marginalized community. If we are to uphold the principles of the corporate social responsibilities and ensure that our university investments do not support violence or oppression, then we must stand in solidarity with this divestment campaign. Standing up for that divestment is the responsibility of the community. We must stand up for that. We must stand up for that. It is less and about politics or religions, it's about standing up against injustice and refusing to be complicit in the bloodshed. By investing in these companies, the university tactically endorses the actions of murderers. Divestment is an just an option. It's a moral imperative, a way for Ohio State to take a true, neutral stance. Every member of the university community, especially students, deserve to have voices in these decisions their perspectives should be valued above all pursuits of profits let us not allow bloodshed to be drawn on the voices of conscious injustice Our demands bring back the issue and let students vote. Vote. Have USG senators do an emergency resolution and take accountability for their discriminatory actions by removing our issue. And forever and always free Palestine.



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- Sophia Shai.9: As a Jewish person who has been heavily involved with the Jewish community for my whole life, I've also been drawn to activism. As someone who has a full cast of my family in the area, I'm so up to a lot of struggle to find first and foremost people. In order to make the maximum efforts we can, I support the divestment of profit from the massacre of Palestinian people that is happening right now in Gaza. With investments in companies like Caterpillar, HP, and RTX, my tuition indirectly or directly is going towards the murder of Palestinians. I will not let this happen in the name of the Jewish people and that investment movement is something that supports this notion. It is not an anti-Semitic disguise as some people may paint it. It is a tangible, non-violent way for the US to be held accountable for the professors and ethnic cleansing and genocide. We must divest from funding murder. Bring back issue 29 and let your students voices be heard.
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- Sophia Starr.312: I am part of the generation of Jews who heard the atrocities of the holocaust from my families. We meant it when we said "never again." I never



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thought I would have to hear students on my campus support BDS. This referenda does not support the OSU mission. My ancestors were hated just because they were Jews. A generation of Jews who, when viewing any Holocaust video in school, could only think about how that would have been us if we were alive. A generation of Jews who believe this reality to be far away a part of history that would never repeat. Jews always say to each other, Never again. And we truly believe it to never again. Now, here I am speaking in front of all of you, only thinking of how my fears of the child have become a reality in my lifetime. I cannot fathom why we are even considering an anti-Semitic initiative that will increase anti-Semitism and hate at OSU and exact survey the hostility Jewish students have faced on campus in the wake of October 7th. Never did I think I would have to worry about hearing a student preach how Jews want to prove their superiority to the world, mirroring Holocaust propaganda. And yet now I have. Never did I think I would have to hear a chance calling for one solution as Hitler did in my own student union and yet now I have. Jewish students on this campus, students like myself, will be confronted with more bigotry, more violent chance calling for the death of Jewish people and will feel more unsafe on a campus that is supposed to be a welcoming, inclusive home. And should this referendum pass, I imagine Jewish students will find themselves more and more frequently saying. and yet now have. In what world are we accepting this as our reality? I will tell you what world, the world in which we let BDS referenda such as this one, the one which has been removed from the ballot for by law infractions, passed in universities across our country. This referenda only succeeds in allowing the already present Jew hatred and anti-Semitic rhetoric fester on our campuses. It is a measure of the hateful surroundings my ancestors



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endured that is now mine to experience. I now have realized the pre-Holocaust panic that my ancestors felt when anti-Jew speech became the norm. We must reject BDS.

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- Reyann Askar.16: I am a proud Palestinian standing here telling you that it should be a scar on our conscience that OSU is funding the murder of my people. My parents migrated here from Palestine. Israel is a racist state of white supremacists. I am asking you hear me out a lot of people in this room need convincing about the urgency of an, the neglect of the serious human rights abuses against the Palestinian people is a scar on the world's conscience. It should be a scar on your conscience and it disgusts me that we even need to convince this university that a Palestinian life is worth living. I want to start off by saying Israelis a racist, apartheid state and the construction of settlements on stolen Palestinian land is illegal, discriminatory and unjust. It is a key driver of the mass human rights violations resulting from the Israeli occupation. There are over 30,000 civilians that in Gaza, mostly children, there are 8,000 under the rubble and 80,000 injured and my tuition pays for that. Your tuition pays for that as well. The average age of a human being killed in Gaza is five years old and our tuition pays for that. My parents immigrated here from Palestine and built a life here for me so that my university can fund the murder of my own people and their children. This is a man made, American made, humanitarian catastrophe in



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Gaza, and it has made life barely tolerable. 96% of the water is contaminated and unfit for consumption. Over 80% of people rely on humanitarian food aid. Food aid that Zionists block from coming into the country so our people can starve to death. They are white supremacists, white supremacists who believe that all Palestinians, specifically in Gaza, deserve to die and we will not tolerate this. It has been 75 years of collective punishment and complete air-sea land closure in Rafah that has devastated the economy and cut off Palestinians from the world. This did not start on October 7th, the reality is that Israel has been murdering and detaining Palestinians since 1948 with no basis. Bring back issue 29, it was wrongly removed from the ballot one in the morning and let students vote on it through a special election. Thank you.

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- Miriam Saab.25: We are watching a genocide unfold before our very eyes. I was absolutely horrified by the genocide that is occurring across the world. Watching this money I spend on this university. I am Ukrainian and Lebanese, we stood by Ukraine but why not Palestine? I have been connected to Palestine my entire life. My grandmother was forced out of her home in Atkev, but I was really forced in 1948. Even though I've seen Israel's crimes play out, often on video, televised to international audiences, year after year after year, I was absolutely horrified by the brutality of October 7th and the genocide that is currently underway. many others here have spoken out against Israel and the genocide they are committing,



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some have responded with, you are in Ohio. Yes, I am in Ohio. We are in Ohio. Why should the money that I get to the state that we get to the state and to this university be sent to weapons companies that are killing thousands of Palestinians? Why should it be funded? I see Children who look like my cousins and my nieces and my nephews are being slaughtered. Women who look like my aunts are being slaughtered. Men who look like my dad and my uncles are being slaughtered. And our money is funding it. Israel is also planning a ground invasion of Lebanon, a country that is currently bombing as they have bombed throughout the years, a country that is filled with my family and my people and my money is funding it. In addition to being Lebanese and Palestinian, I am also Ukrainian. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the world rallied in support. As a Ukrainian I was of course overjoyed. This support included divestment from Russian companies. Yet in the face of a genocide as Palestinians are being massacred at a daily death ray that has long exceeded that of Ukraine, this university refuses to do the same. I will not stand by this and nor will the majority of the student body. Issue 29 let us give us a chance to have our voices heard. You all are sitting senators that represent the students and call for an urgent special election immediately after the spring break for the Divestment Initiative, issue 29.

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- Matt Levine.1891: Hi everyone, I am the director of Community Relations here at USG, but I am not here to ask you for those that are not familiar with the issue to make a decision right now. I do not ask you to define the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the way that the opposition is asking you to. I am here for difficult, intelligent conversations required to help better our community's understanding of it, and I owe back to you as my peer and of this university. OSU Divest and its partners are asking that you define the conflict in all the ways I won't. In simplistic terms, they do not seek conversation, but to shut conversation down. The rhetoric is extreme and they do not seem to want to cultivate understanding as much as I want to incite hate in division. On October 8th, one day after the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, our campus chapter of student justice for Palestine posted on our Instagram page, a heroic resistance. Now I went to Israel in December to see what happened for myself. I spoke to members of the Kibbutzim. I spoke to members of families who were mourning victims of rape and murder. Now that is not heroic resistance to me. When I think of S.J.P.'s message out alluding to a heroic resistance I think of Yair whose parents were kidnapped and whose father is still being held hostage in Gaza. I think of Simhah, the first responder who held burnt bodies as they combed into ash in his hands on October 7th. I think of so many more innocent civilians, peace-loving people who are brutalized that day. I'm not asking for your pity, for the Jewish community in Ohio State is strong and we will not back down in the face of adversity. I'm also not asking that you see this issue as black and white. I only ask that you stand against the type of tactics that diminish OSU's character, one defined by intellectual integrity and the willingness to engage in difficult conversations so that we may all learn. I'm a proud Jewish student, I'm a proud



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member of the Ohio State community and I will not back down in either of my communities.

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- Chika Nkwocha.1: Of the Holy spirit on my behalf, I'm a senior here, fourth year, and this is not my first time in this space. I served as a college of engineering senator for the 54th general assembly, and I was given this exact same situation in 2022. In spring 2022, a resolution to divest was properly proposed and was passed for the 54th assembly, and I couldn't be more proud to be one of those senators that voted on that resolution. But unfortunately, due to ignorance and administration, my vote in the support of thousands of students on this campus was discounted and why was that because of retaliation and fear. The resolution was not upheld because the current president at the time was receiving threats of deportation if they signed that resolution and the same person traded on around campus under the guise of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Again, a blatant false display of commitment to DEI. We are in this exact same predicament because of an oppressive institution like the Ohio State University that again fails to uphold those same exact values. Never once has this university acknowledged atrocities that have happened against people of Palestine. So now, issue 29 is an exact to service Ohio State students. Now, I'll do my best not to make this into an Olympics competition of who is the most suppressed, but what | will say is that some of you have the opportunity and luxury to sleep peacefully at night, so if you



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have the opportunity to celebrate the death of innocent people, some of you will have fun during spring break getting drunk and partying, that's not a luxury for other people, that's not a facet of your oppression, it's a facet of your white privilege, Your insecurity about media is not a facet of your privilege, it's a facet of your white privilege. That's not an experience that some of us will leave with. It's not an experience that some of the Palestinians who have died will experience. Especially people like Hussein, who was murdered, not kidnapped. The least that I can require of this institution is to be on the right side of history for once. So with that, I, along with my peers, demand that issue 29 be reinstated.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for question anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Seeing none I will open it to the floor any questions from senators please raise your hand
 - Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Andrew Zutler.2: If you have criticisms of the Israeli government, join the club. Prior to the barbaric attacks by Hamas on October 7th, millions of Jewish and Arab Israelis took to the streets every week to protest the government of Benjamin Netanyahu and his far right coalition. The government of Israel is not the people of Israel and does not represent Jews across the world. As a member of the Jewish community, I pray for the day when the hostages are released, the fighting stops, and Israelis and Palestinians can live alongside each other as partners in peace. Jews do not want any innocent Palestinians to suffer or die. Together as Buckeyes, we have the opportunity to be ambassadors for unity and construct a community built on peace and opposition to terror. A BDS action represents the antithesis of the peaceful possibility. Let's not kid ourselves. Even



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if BDS does pass, OSU cannot divest as BDS actions are illegal in the state of Ohio and divestment will certainly not affect Israeli policy. What we do know is, BDS will lead to antisemitism. After BDS passes on campus, reports of antisemitic incidents triple. Paired with the 400% increase of antisemitism following October 7th, violent attacks on students are virtually guaranteed. Supporting BDS, which endorsed Hamas's Genocidal Act on October 7th, would erode the moral integrity of our campus and make us complicit in future acts of hate. Let's be constructive rather than destructive and work towards a better future for Israelis, Palestinians, Jews and Muslims on our campus. We can do this by calling for the release of the hostages and Hamas surrender. BDS is not the answer. Am Yisrael Chai

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- Ethan Dobres.10: We are scared. We are broken. We are in pain. 152 days ago, we woke up to the news that our friends, family, and loved ones were under attack in Israel. We watched it agonize as we got word of the horrific kidnapping, rape, and slaughter that occurred in a place that means so much to us. We are scared. We are broken. We are in pain. We've watched in the 152 days since, is anti-Semitism and hatred spiked at Ohio State. We felt our heart drop upon hearing the news that on this campus, our beloved Hillel was vandalized, our friends were spat on, our houses were desecrated, our faces were punched. We are scared, we are broken, we are in pain. Every day we open our phones to read more bad news from the Middle East. Palestinian children are suffering, Israeli children are suffering. Thousands of innocent people, Israelis and Palestinians are dead.



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Every loss of Palestinian life, every loss of innocent life pains us, period. To those in this room grieving the loss of innocent Palestinian life, we grieve with you, we mourn with you. And we say a prayer for the sick and the hurting called the Misha Barach. In one line it always sticks out to me. Bless those in need of healing with a Refua Shlema. What our community needs is a refua shlema, a speedy recovery, a healing. We need to heal and issue one does the exact opposite of that. Issue one scares us, issue one pains us, issue one breaks us. We don't want to be here right now. We have exams, friends, clubs, and other responsibilities that we should probably be doing. But instead we're here because we're scared, because we're broken, because we're in pain, because we want to heal. We don't want divestment, we don't want a special election, we just want to heal. We are scared, we are broken, we are in pain, let's heal.

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- Elias Saber.10: Salāmun ṣalaykum, everybody and for those of you who are unaware or otherwise afraid of the Arabic language that roughly translates to peace be upon you. See, I believe that the main factor of hate has always been ignorance, whether willingly or unwillingly, and the spread of misinformation. I am a proud, repeat that, proud Lebanese American. I have experienced many forms of prejudice and racism throughout my entire life and will probably still experience them until the day I draw my final breath on this earth. Recently certain organizations on campus have decided to engage in a smear campaign for the people who are advocating for the innocent civilians of Palestine there is not



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this is nothing new to me and my people. I have been reduced to a terrorist since before I knew the meaning of the very word. But now I am older, I am more aware, and I am more knowledgeable. I am a student at a big ten institution and even then the persecution persists. What's worse is that it persists unrefuted, unwavering, but unacknowledged. Let me be clear when I say this. Islamophobia is not a strong enough word to say what I've experienced. This is clear cut racism towards Arab people. And I promise you I am not using this word lightly when I say many people surrounding this issue are not only racist towards us but are satisfied by silencing us. And this is very undemocratic to put it on the ballot and remove it mid vote. Excuse me. They are afraid of us and our hijabis, but they love including them in their ads to promote diversity on campus. To return to the subject of terrorism, I would love to use a quote from Benjamin Netanyahu. My definition of terrorism is the systemic and deliberate attack, the murder, maiming and menacing of innocent civilians for political goals. This is a clear cut quote for what Israel is doing in Palestine today. Thank you for your time.

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- Zach Klein.697: when I hear that OSU is about to vote on this, I ask if you think that Israel has the right to exist. Call for the release of hostages instead of supporting Hamas. Arab countries were created at the same time as Israel and people are to hold any job without regard to gender, race and religion. It does not sound like genocide or an apartheid state, does it? Israel, unlike other countries, is not worthy of BDS. Why not call for the release of the kidnapped hostages by



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Hamas, a designated terrorist organization by the United States, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Australia, Paraguay, New Zealand and the United Kingdom? Will you consider DBS of Syria where more than 500 000 civilians have been killed and 3.5 million refugees have been created since 2011 how about Yemen 200 000 people killed since 2015 and 4 million forced to leave their homes in that time. The United Nations voted and approved Resolution 181 in 1947, providing that both the Jewish state and another Arab state would be created. Jews accepted the plan, which led to Israel's creation in 1948. Did you know that after World War I, Syria was created in 1946, Jordan in 1946, modern Egypt in 1953, Iraq in 1958, Lebanon in 1943, modern Turkey in 1923, Pakistan in 1947, and modern India in 1947? Let's be real, the intention of BDS is not to change policy but to delegitimize the right of Israel to exist. Why is the legitimacy of Israel the only nation that is still questioned when it was created at the same time as most other Middle Eastern nations? Start with proposing acceptance of living in peace with Jews, Then we'll all have something we can all be proud of to support. Am Yisrael Chai

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- Joudi Saadeh.15: I am thankful to have the opportunity to voice my concerns to you today As a student and this opportunity for expression is also the foundation of the two issues that I will discuss. The first speaks to the demotion of Senator Walkup's position of Native American emissary, and the removal of her right to vote in the Senate. To reduce Senator Walkup's position can be equated to



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silencing those she represents. Not only Native OSU students who already do not have a voice in the Senate, but also the minority populations she fiercely advocates for with her wisdom, and she so eloquently represents us. Any change in her position effectively silences or lessens the value of the opinions of OSU's diverse student body. The second issue that this freedom pertains to is issue 29 and the divestment vote. As a government run by students for students a removal of this non-discriminative issue after approval says that students advocating for ethical advancements don't get a vote period that is blatantly discriminative unlike the policy change that was proposed so give Senator Walkup a rightful secure vote protect those that she represents and you all the sitting senators that represent the Ohio State University and call for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29. And to speak as a Syrian American person myself, the country may have been officially established lately my people have lived there for far longer my people have been there for a very long time and I have witnessed firsthand the Israeli attacks on our own country so I can speak for myself as well when I say free Palestine

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- Faye Aboshahba.2: In the past 152 days. The nearly 40,000 dead in Heza are not statistics or casualties of war. They are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, elders, and infants whose lives have been mercilessly torn apart by the brutality of conflict and Israeli and Western greed. The atrocities in Gaza is one of the most documented in our time. Day after day our feats are filled with infant bodies,



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tripled in hospital beds, mothers wailing over their dead children's blood and bones, Palestinian male hostages, boys and men being subject to torture and humiliation tactics. In Gaza war crimes are not isolated incidents but rather systematic atrocities perpetrated against a defensive civilian population. From indiscriminate bombings of residential neighborhoods to the targeting of essential infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. The perpetrators of these heinous acts have shown a blatant disregard for the fundamental principles of humanity. The deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, including children, is a clear violation of international humanitarian law, and falls under the direct definition of a genocide. Restricting access to medical aid and services, and food. It is an insult to our collective conscience and a stain on the moral fabric of our world. How can we as members of the global community stand idly by while innocent lives are snuffed out and families are torn apart? In the years to come, history books, documentaries, and articles will depict the most documented genocide in our history. Countries may dedicate numerous days and spend weeks in classrooms attempting to make up for the complicity in genocide. You can wait decades to realize that you spent months attempting to justify the subject and its flaws

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- Sara Zouaoui.1: This is not an issue of religion or politics, but rather humanity.

What can we all do? All I ask myself is what can I do? What can we all do? We as a younger generation must not allow wrong to occur. The wrong that once



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destroyed the Native Americans must not repeat to be the wrong that destroys the Palestinians. We must resist. Issue 29 is by many ways of our way of helping put the wrong back to right. Divesting is the least this university can do. You won't acknowledge the death threats we got. You won't acknowledge the harassment received. You won't even acknowledge the signatures that we fairly collected. While a group of students here today will spend their Sunday afternoon giving away free Celsius drinks, Begging people to vote no on an issue that will result in a full respect in the Palestinian movement, I wonder why? You all have come up here and stated that you have nothing against us, that you mourn our pain and our suffering. But the Palestinian in myself when I visit my home country, I take notice of overwhelming apartheid walls. Discrimination and hate we receive for existing. I take notice that because I'm Palestinian, entry into certain areas is forbidden. My land that my grandfather worked day and night to receive is not guaranteed. The life of my cousins and grandparents in the West Bank is unclear. I took notice of how unfair life for a Palestinian is and what is your justification for that? Because of my identity? You all tell me that you care about us, that you don't want suffering against us, that you want peace. Tell me that by fighting back on a system that is wrong. Tell me that by fighting back to push back issue 29 on the ballot.

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- Maya Hamed.62: I am fully Palestinian. I am here to talk about issue 29. I am fully Palestinian, and I'm actually here to talk about issue 29, unlike those that



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have straight away from the topic. I have been a student here for three years and I have never seen such hatred and discrimination on this campus. The hate and tension on this campus is beyond dangerous. Palestinian students have been going through a non-stop threat for the past five months and the only thing that OSU has done was bring a rise in Islamophobia and anti-Palestinians to campus. The removal of this ballot also brought nothing to OSU but hatred. Being Palestinian, you naturally want to provide justice for your people, which is why I'm here today. The issue consists of demanding withdrawal from Caterpillar and HP and other companies for basic human rights violations in Palestine. The investments with these manufacturers are further expanding the demolition of the people of my people's homes and the construction of illegal settlements in Palestinian territories. These funds given from the Ohio State University need to come to an end as it is continuing to violate the basic human rights of my people in Palestine. By bringing back this issue, it will not have a negative impact towards anyone on campus if anything the only people that will be in effect by this issue are the civilians living in Palestine. You all as senators, as sitting senators that represent the voices of your constituents must call for an urgent, special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29. Also it's issue 29 not issue one. Per the judicial panel.

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- Madison Weiss.656: Hello my name is Madison Weiss I'm standing today before you as a proud observant Jew, a proud Zionist, meaning I proudly support the right for Jewish self-determination. We are people who for 2,000 years pray three times a day toward Israel, Jerusalem, or Holy Temple, which was destroyed in 70 CE by the same eternal evil that is threatening the students of Ohio State in March of 2024 of the evil of anti-Semitism. On October 7th, 1200 innocent people were killed. That is not resistance, is not powerful, and it is not heroic as BDS and SJP on this campus have called it. Please reject BDS, reject Hamas, free the hostages. Am Yisrael Chai
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- Ray Velázquez.63: OSU's complacent in genocidal practices within occupied Palestine is disgraceful and disgusting as they invest in companies that are decimating the population of Palestine. The investments that aid and abet in the genocide of 30,000 lives in counting, 30,000 lives, Most of them women and children, each martyr dying for the sake of a free Palestine, had families and loved ones just like every single one of us in this room. They had plans of living a fulfilled life that was taken by them. I cannot unsee the images that I have seen showing the atrocities happening within Gaza and the West Bank. Kids, babies as little as three years old with both arms blown off mothers screaming as they find their lifeless children's bodies under the rubble newly weds murdered only a couple weeks after their wedding and children like 12 year old Mohammed El Fara and although the dehydration and starvation happening within Gaza has



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been declared a humanitarian crisis it is still without help from them and the dying people. With OSU's complacency and support of the genocidal practices within one of the most vulnerable communities in the world, OSU is deliberately funding the work of entire family lineages of Palestinians, not just individual families. Furthermore, to allow the removal of an issue that was fairly placed on the ballot to be removed while undergraduate students were voting is a shameful act. And to continue the voting as if an issue was not taken off the ballot in the middle of the night is a direct hit to the so-called democracy USG preaches. You all are sitting senators that represent the voices of your constituents, so you must take action. You must pass an emergency resolution that condemns the overreach and the censorship of your outstanding University and call for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29. Again we demand that issue 29 is put back on the ballot and the USG senators of the Ohio State University pass an emergency resolution that condense the censorship in silencing the students and to echo those who came before me this did not start on October 7th this has been happening since 1948 this is a genocide and ethnic cleansing that is being funded by the United States and by the Ohio State University and as always, Free Palestine.

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- Daoud Al-Akhras.5: Today, the Black Caucus sided with democracy, more importantly, humanity, albeit at a very crucial stance. This is not an unknown occurrence to the Palestinian students of this university. In 2015, referendum was



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brought to the floor and received upwards of 4,000 signatures and was removed in 2017 a ballot faced the same fate in 2022 a resolution was brought to the floor and was voted upon in one in a 14 to 8 popular vote and Thus the president was pressured to remove it from its activists. All I'm citing is that USG representatives have failed to uphold the democracy that they vow to uphold. The vow they take when they assume their positions. If this is a matter of authoritative figures pressuring you an to my president said will you stand for an administration that has repeatedly undermined your authority in the senators in the past or will you apply pressure to the seniors that have placed you in this unfair position is it absurd to me to request that the university we pay tuition to not investing in companies such as Lockheed Martin that sends f16 to this place that designed their army that has caused 30,000 Palestinians to be murdered in Gaza today. Or divest from, HP, a company also documented to gauge in technological warfare against innocent civilians at illegal checkpoints all over the city of Hebron. If this had not caught your attention ten years ago, maybe the 30,000 Palestinians who have been massacred in cold blood today will move you. Unfortunately today our students are in a position where they are barred from practicing their democratic rights as members of the student body. The demands are simple. You, the student body senators, must take action pass a resolution that condemns the overreach and censorship of the Ohio State University and call for an urgent specialist special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29.

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- Seeing none I will open it to the floor any questions from senators please raise your hand
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- Zoë VanGyseghem.1:I am a student and I am an undergrad research assistant. I am also a Belgian immigrant whose family was helping concentration camps for their political beliefs. I'm grateful for the education I've received here. My professors have inspired me and taught me to bravely and critically engage with systems of power and to believe in my own potential. As I attend these USG meetings, I'm struck by the opening land of acknowledgment statement similar to what is required to be listed on every course's syllabus. What always stands out to me in these statements is their emptiness, their performativity. There are words without actions. I for one believe our actions must match our words. I believe this is a signed integrity and I know that OSU administration expects its student bodies to have integrity. We as students must in turn hold the administration and senators to the same standard. For months the OSU students have pushed for indigenous rights in the form of divesting from companies that aid Israel as they continue their genocidal ethnic cleansing of indigenous people of Palestine. Students have followed procedures to accrue signatures, they've pushed for a student-wide vote on investment initiative, and admin has systematically stripped them of their right to a fair and democratic process by removing this issue from the ballot. Further, admin jeopardizes the mental health of USG leadership as they are forced to deliver admin silence. Admin lacks the integrity to even do their own dirty work. This administration is systematically silencing and thus failing its student body. We demand an open vote on issue 29, but the students decide where our ever-increasing tuition money is spent. Or if this is in fact not an institution that honors democratic processes, then at least have the



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integrity to tell us that so that we have no say in this university has run and then have the decency for admin to claim responsibility for their own actions. If admin has already decided that our voices do not matter, and that only the voices of their financial donors matter, then there's nothing to lose in openly stating the truth publicly.

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POI Brazil: Point of inquiry, how many more speakers?

Schmidt: 76

- Donia Alkashkish.1: It's been 151 days and 279 healthcare facilities and less that have been targeted by Israel. As we all here should know, deliberate targeting of hospitals and violations of international law is a violation of international law. Over 2 million people have lost access to medical aid from the bombs that have been dropped and funded by companies that this university invests in. We as a university are directly contributing to and supplying weapons that are committing war crimes. 756 healthcare workers are targeted with our money. Everyone here should agree with me when I say that our community should not be supporting this, supporting these violations of international law. Why do your beliefs change once it comes in regards to Palestinians? When students attempt to speak out against these human rights violations, this university continues to silence us. Recently, I was informed that someone within one of our own hospitals directly advocated for the mass murder of all Palestinians. And despite reports being made, nothing was done. How can instances like this be allowed in



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our own university hospitals at a location that people are actively seeking life-saving treatment yet murder is being advocated towards people of a certain ethnicity. And this isn't anything that is new as many instances have been reported targeting Palestinians and Palestinian allies on this campus. Issue 29 was put on the ballot after all requirements were met, yet taken down with no reasonable excuse. How can USG claim to represent the student body, but yet continue to silence us? We demand as the student body to bring back issue 29 and allows the students to voice their opinions on issues regarding our campus. In addition to this, we demand that USG Senators do an emergency resolution and take accountability for the discriminatory actions for removing issue 29. Thank you.

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- Ahlam Yasin.39: Of place where students are educated to be better and make the world a better place. We pay for the ability to learn, express ourselves and grapple with our place in the wider world. Of the wider world. We are all affected by the horrors happening in Gaza. And more importantly, you can't affect the future of what's happening in Gaza. So the opportunity to vote democratically on the critical life or death issue of the investment from ongoing military operations to be taken off the ballot is a gross failure of democracy. That was a shameful mistake and one which must be fixed for immediate emergency action. I stand with many other OSU students, want to bring back issue 29 and want to let students vote on it through a special election. Take accountability for the



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discrepancy of removing our issue off the ballot, bargaining the lives of human beings and those over the technicality of unclear and outdated bylaws. You all as sitting senators are present the voices of our constituents must take action. Pass a resolution that condemns the overreach and censorship of the Ohio State University and calls for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29. Bring back issue 29 and let students go on it through a special election. With that being said, free Palestine from occupation.

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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Daniel Ronis-Tobin.1: I am a third year engineering student from Cincinnati Ohio. I am involved in a lot of organizations in this university, ranging from political to sports related, but atop them all, I am a proud Jew and a proud Israeli. Today, I'm here to tell you the story of my friend, Rohn. Rohn Shitser has been a friend of mine since the day I was born, as my father and his mother have been best friends since middle school. Growing up, Rohn loved playing sports, computer games, and practicing stand-up comedy at family dinners. As the oldest sibling, Rohn was a role model, displaying humility, empathy, and passion everywhere he went. After four years of service through his country, Rohn moved forward with his life, enrolling in a trade school at a kibbutz on the border with Gaza. Like every Israeli, everything changed on October 7th. At about six in the morning, Rohn's kibbutz awoke to the sound of gunfire. Knowing from his time in the military that he didn't have time to leave or call for help, he proceeded to hide under his own dorm bed. His dorm was quickly overrun as he had to hear



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the explosion of grenades and gunfire throughout the hallway. Hour after hour, Ron hid under his bed as Hamas terrorists used his bed to reload their weapons throughout the day. After 12 hours of hiding, Rohn was finally rescued by IDF paramedics who he then assisted in locating the rest of his friends in their dorms, only to find that they had all perished from the attack. Since that day, Rohn has been suffering from severe PTSD. It is so difficult for me to hear from someone who despite being a hero still struggles with so much pain from that day. My friend Rohn is just one of thousands of stories. Stories so horrifying they should never be forgotten ever. Terrorism should not be tolerated, not anywhere in the world and not on this campus the Jewish people are a peaceful people Israeli Jews included in that however the Jewish people have a right and a need to defend themselves in pursuit of survival just as we have time and time again there's nothing I'd like to advocate nothing more than for peace but peace cannot exist with BDS

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- Isabella Guinigundo.5: My name is Isabella and I'm an organizer for an organization around campus called Ohio Youth for Climate Justice. For the past three years, Ohio Youth for Climate Justice has advocated for the Ohio State University to divest from fossil fuels. Undergraduate student government has supported us. They passed a resolution in support of fossil fuel divestment last year. And yet, when it comes to the issue of climate justice, that when it impacts other people, you don't seem to care. You don't seem to mind that students were



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allowed to speak on the issue of divestment when it came to fossil fuels that impacted you, but not when it came to divestment that impacted people miles and miles away from here. There is a genocide happening in Palestine. And the fact that we are not even able to vote on a resolution to divest from companies that are profiting from that genocide is an absolute failure of democracy.

Students at this university deserve to have a say over where our money goes. And the fact that we are not even being allowed to vote on such things is an absolute disgrace. I urge all USG members who have the ability to put the issue back on the ballot to do so immediately. Students deserve to vote on this issue and I am demanding that you issue a special election when we come back from spring break and allow students the time to vote in support of the resolution issue 29 to divest from companies that are profiting off of genocide in Palestine. From the river to the sea, we are meaning that the entire land that has historically been Palestine will be returned to Palestinians.

- Moskowitz: Can you clarify what from the river to the sea means?
- This is a rally cry that speaks to how land has been Palestine's and should be returned to them.

Schmidt: Looking ahead at the list some people who have already spoke signed up again after speaking but people are only allowed to speak once due to our bylaws so your name will be removed.

- Jane Shevkin.1: I come from a proud and moderate Jewish background. My family emigrated to the United States in the 90s when they fled antisemitism in the Soviet Union. My mom says she couldn't be publicly Jewish even though she wasn't even religiously observant. It was considered to be shameful to be Jewish and she experienced harassment even as a child because of this. While some of



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my family and including my parents saw asylum in the United States, others saw refuge in Israel. Israel is the one safeguarding the world against the antisemitism for the Jewish people. In the words of Eli Wezel, a well-known Holocaust survivor and scholar, as a Jew, I need Israel. More precisely, I can live as a Jew outside Israel, but not without Israel. Israel has become a home and a safe haven for so many. For thousands of years, Jews have been persecuted and no one stood up to protect us. Israel is the only place where Jews are kept safe. After graduating high school, I took a gap year in Israel. I actually lived there for 10 months. Israelis, Jews, Arabs, Christians, Muslims, all coexisting harmoniously engaged in the daily rhythms of life. It wasn't until I got to this campus that I really experienced the hatred that my parents fled. The BDS movement touted as a vehicle for change serves only to plant seeds of discord and intolerance, failing to advance the cause of either Israeli or Palestinian. Instead, it fuels resentment towards a Jewish community deepening divisions rather than fostering understanding. We, the Jewish students, are tired. Our community, similar to Israeli, is known as nothing more than to get along with our neighbors in coexistent peace. Unfortunately, Hamas is the barrier to that. And endorsing BDS, a movement that is allied with Hamas is not the answer.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for question anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Seeing none I will open it to the floor any questions from senators please raise your hand
- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Arvcuken Noqisi.1: I am a native student with the Native American Indigenous People's School Board. I am here for resolution 56-R-33. And I had a whole speech written out and I have felt like we have been strung along about this



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situation in a very unofficial means where I as one of the native constituencies have not been able to hear, we have been shrugged off by all of the changes of this resolution in the past two weeks. The minutes for the information about the resolution were not published, as far as I know they are still not published from session 22 and therefore we have had to rely on our insider seat. This has been a completely dishonorable moment in USG. We will not forget and there will be a lot of care that is required in order to recognize, in order to create better relationships with the Native American Indigenous students. You have strung us along, expecting us to accept non-physical communication as a band-aid for the direct recruitment of building our community of students on a basis that there are not enough of us to matter. And I request official avenues, especially since it's apparently going to be tabled I heard. And alongside that, I want you to listen. It so disrespectful, you do need to take the land acknowledgement out of the beginning of USG if you are going to create resolution such as this, that removes our power, to remove our voice and our enfranchisement.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for question anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Vaishampayan: What else did you want to add?
 - o Yes, we are 0.0006% of the OSU population, and we have not been able to officially follow the changes to the resolution and that has been a complete disrespect and a destruction of the relationship USG as even tried to garner with native students by using a land acknowledgement because we have barely been able to tell what is going on that impacts us and our voices. We have been relying on one emissary seat in order to know what is going on and in that sense the fact that this resolution originally was made



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to remove that position, it has completely disrupted our capacity to work alongside USG and understand what people are doing to us about us.

- Schmidt: we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Shari Spiegel.88: On January 1st, we found out that my cousin, Amihai Oster, was the first soldier of the IDF to be murdered in Gaza in the new year. Amihai was 24 years old with goals, dreams and plans just like you and me and everyone in this room. He wanted to travel, have a family, fall in love, and to just enjoy the simple pleasures in life. However, October 7 interrupted those plans, and there was something that was more important, the protection of our people. My cousin was kind, funny, talented, brilliant, selfless, spontaneous, humble, and so many other characteristics that made him a remarkable human being. Amihai's eye was embarking on a trip of a lifetime where he quite literally traveled the world. He put his travels on hold when the news broke out about the horrific crime Hamas was perpetrating against Israeli citizens. By citizens, I mean babies, children, the elderly, Holocaust survivors, people of all ages. They had no mercy, they had no remorse. In fact, they were proud of it. They videotaped it and posted it on social media for the whole world to see. My cousin did all he could to stop this, to defend his people and to stop the pain. However, that was not enough. Now his passing has just become another tragedy and all those who know him will never be the same. It is hard to find a Jew who does not have some connection to someone impacted somehow. Whether this impact may be knowing someone who was murdered, tortured, who has been dealt the cards of needing to heal their heart because of a loved one's passing. When I say this, think of my cousins my aunts my uncles my grandmother and his best friend who one year old niece is too young to lose an uncle I have so much to say but so little time to say it so I



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will just leave you with this I'm glad that my cousin was killed rather than taken hostage because those hostages are being brutalized in ways we couldn't imagine, and he was killed. In what world is being killed a good thing and what world is being killed the best case?

Diaz: Point of inquiry, how many left on open forum?

Schmidt: 78

- Shai Ben-Eliyahu.1: I am a proud Israeli Jew. Several years ago, my family relocated to the United States. My roots as a Jew and an Israeli formed the essence of my being. Since the morning of October 7th, my connection to these identities have intensified like never before. That particular day began with the excitement of the OSU vs Maryland football match. But at 6:52 am a phone call from my best friend--who is in Israel deployed as a combat soldier--told me that she probably will not return. I reached out to our other friends who all pressed me for a communication blackout in the uncertain days ahead. The possibility of loss became a constant shadow rendering academic pursuits and normalcy in significance. With the war starting, a paralyzing fear began. The results of that attack being celebrated promoted me to conceal my Jewish identity and Israeli identity. I found myself removing my necklace, refusing to wear any clothes that had Hebrew script, and avoiding the synagogue, all to shield myself from potential harm. Therapy, tears, and deliberate disconnection became as I struggled to find focus amidst this turmoil. The loss of friends, or the capturing of some of whom I know. This personally weighs heavily upon me proceeding with academic and professional obligations while being severed from them felt incredibly impossible. Encountering chance of Intifada, terming to intertwine with the murder of Jewish lives, resurfaced fears rooted in me from my mother's



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recounts of the second Intifada. Is it just for a student here to pursue education, to live in constant fear? It is vital to recognize that the perspective of Israelis and Jews are not aligned with the Israeli government, and there exists a space for respectful discourse.

- Amjad Almuti.1: I'm a proud Palestinian. I've been watching speakers come and go today saying so much while saying so little. I don't care about what your major is or what city you're from because that means nothing. I could say here and talk about what I think about Israel's terrorism, but I think story time would be a lot easier to understand for those of you who clearly can't see right from home. My grandfather, a man known in this community for being kind and giving, was thrown into jail as a teenager for years and given no reason. The army that called themselves the most moral army in the world brutally beat him up and gave him lifelong scars. A bone in one of his fingers was permanently damaged, his ear was permanently injured, but the scar that no one sees is the one inside. My grandfather was raised in Bethlehem, Palestine. While he was a child, he was beat up on the side of the street by the Zionist occupation forces for sneaking to a teacher's house to get an education after the Israeli government shut down Palestinian schools. Then they took him to my grandfather's pharmacy and beat him up again in front of his father. Imagine the pain that my grandfather had watching his son get jumped by a bunch of teenage hooligans with guns you all sit here with signs of kidnapped people and say that this is true pain but this is not true pain true pain is seeing your children blown to pieces true pain is seeing people that you knew and the land that you grew up on turned into rubble by the un-proportionate murdering of innocent civilians and the animal-like behavior of



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Israel's teenage youth and their internals. With that being said, Free Palestine from Israel's occupation.

- Nelly, Azar.17: As I've introduced myself prior, my name is Nelly Azar and I'm a fourth year computer science and engineering major here. I am also a mix Jewish and Palestinian. To see the 30,000 plus Palestinians being murdered in a text book genocide in the name of the community I was raised under is absolutely appalling. Why should the liberation of one side of my character be dependent on the apartheid and violence imposed on another? To be pro-BDS is to be pro-humanity. To be pro-BDS is to be pro-humanity. Humanity is to allow our community to hold companies perpetuating justice accountable. By taking down issue 29, OSU is hereby condoning the censorship of a large portion of the student body that supports a permanent ceasefire and a permanent ceasefire. And as a proud anti-zionist too, I demand that USG bring back issue 29 on ballot and let students vote on it democratically. I demand that it not be repealed this time, whether by USG or OSU admin. Moreover, I demand that USG senators, through an emergency resolution, intake accountability for their discriminant action over moving our issue off the ballot. So with that, it's with that that I confidently say, not in my name, not in my community, Free Palestine.
- Bryanna chambers.542: I am a first generation college student here at OSU, when I was 13 I learned that my great-grandfather's a hard-working man, has a lead school, had a young age to provide for his family, he worked in the fields as a kid. He couldn't read or write. As an adult he worked in a factory and he would sign his checks with X's. Why is that? He was black. He was not given a fair chance in life. He died not knowing how to read or write. He prided himself on getting his 12 kids to school. I was taught that I could be somebody if I just applied myself. I



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am grateful for my great-grandfather also for the people of movements like the civil rights movement Black Power movement and the movements like rockets on high street the people of these new movements are not just not just for themselves But so people could be given a free fair chance and be treated like human beings And I commend all the people here who are standing for the millions of people who have been displaced, who are starving to death with no real shelter in Gaza. To stop the killing that has taken thousands of Palestinian lives, which include children's lives. Where is there for a chance? Are they being treated like human beings? No. And the sad part is, you guys have decided to be part of their suffering. For what? Money? You all as sitting senators that represent the voices of your constituents must take action. Pass a resolution that condemns their overreach and the censorship of the Ohio State University and a special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative issue 29.

- Roy: Can you clarify what you mean by money in this case?
- You guys are not divesting your money because of fear. Where is the humanity?
- Abdihamid, Abdulkadir.23: Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, much like America is the oldest democracy in the world—the foundation of any democratic society. An organized body operates on the premise that individual members in that body are entitled to a fundamental right to vote on issues that impact and affect them. They are given avenues of address and methods of confronting major deficiencies in the decision-making processes of official decisions. The importance of this is further highlighted when those same decisions actively enable great harms. The urgency, severity, and irreversibility of



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such harms ought to have compelled action to prevent them. However, instead, you dig your heels even further into the ground, not only ensuring that they continue but also greatly profiting from it—the choice to do so, knowing that the harms are among the greatest crimes against humanity. Genocide shares the same despicable, revolting, and gut-wrenching spirit as seen in America's justification of the slaughter of Native Americans, the enslavement of Africans, the bombing of civilians in Vietnam, the devastation of Iraq, and the obliteration of millions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki within seconds. It reflects an unrepentant, chauvinistic, and cowardly tendency of academia to align with the state as long as they are not directly affected by it. This tendency was evident when universities were among the last to divest from apartheid South Africa. Yesterday, the University's decision to remove issue 29 from the undergraduate selection or student election ballot represented an egregious act of disenfranchisement that sought to deny a fundamental right to a portion of its students, particularly those from a diverse range of ethnic and religious backgrounds. Despite the students following the given procedures and appeals for addressing issue 29, the university administration pulled it from the ballot after only 12 hours. The ongoing catalogue of death, suffering, and persecution faced by Palestinians has been relegated to the social arena, as if it were not a deeply personal and human problem. Free Palestine.

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- Yara Jahshan.7: As a student hoping to continue my academic career with Ohio State, witnessing the way this university has chosen to obstruct their students' democratic rights has left me to reconsider how I will continue willingly, knowing that this is a continuous pattern that has yet to be broken. I see on a daily basis mothers and fathers crying over the loss of their newborns, and children dying from gunshot wounds that our tuition funds. I see hourly children praying at the funeral of another child, who was left with only their left arm due to indiscriminate and untargeted bombings by Israel, funded by the money that we continuously pay. Every semester has proven to go to places I can never go. Why should we discriminate and isolate this funding against any student investment? Now, more than ever, it is necessary and important as it gives opportunity for students to raise their voice on where our tuition money goes. Issue 29 needs to be brought back so that students can vote on it through a special election. As spring break comes to an end, USG Senators need an emergency resolution and need to be held accountable for their discriminatory and racist actions of removing this issue off the ballot. Thank you.
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- Jamil Aboushaar.2: As-salamu alaikum. I greet you in the only way I know how, with the greetings of peace. Google is free. I don't have to show you the statistics. Instagram and social media are free. The videos are everywhere. I don't have to show that to you. I don't have to show the gruesome killings to you. But what I do have to do, apparently, is spark some sense of humanity within you, because



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apparently that's not as widespread as we once thought. Our requests don't require more than that; they don't require more than just a basic sense of humanity. We're not asking that our tuition dollars be spent to aid our brothers and sisters in Gaza, to feed them, to provide them with basic sanitary needs. Rather, all we're asking is that infants not get killed. I'm asking that my tuition dollars don't go towards the killing of a mother or a father, or their infant son of a day old, or an old man who's outlived the entire country of Israel. I am appalled that this university removes issue 29 and censors the voices of the very students that pay to attend this university. Our demands are simple. Bring back issue 29. Let students vote on it through a special election. Have USG Senators do an emergency resolution and take accountability for their discriminatory action of removing our issue off the ballot. Over the past few months, everything has been painted to be a little bit more complicated than it is. So I'll repeat that one more time to show you that it's rather simple. Two demands: bring back issue 29. Let students vote on it in a special election. The second: have the USG Senators do an emergency resolution and take accountability for their discriminatory action of removing our issue off the ballot. Lastly, Senators, I speak to you both individually and as a collective. If you were, let's say, a doctor, and you were called to an emergency, a critical situation, are thoughts and prayers enough? I know that if I spoke to any single one of you, you would tell me that you send your thoughts and prayers. But there's a tangible action in front of you. There is something that you can do, and thoughts and prayers are not enough when there's a tangible action in front of you that can save human life. Thank you.

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- Roy: If you were speaking to admin and not USG, what would you say?
- I would, at the very minimum, make my voice be heard, because you're in a position with a voice that you're speaking on behalf of your students, your constituents. So, at the very minimum, have the bravery to respect the role and the responsibility, the responsibility that you've been given to represent your constituents and do it and represent. We've heard many voices today. There's clearly a very, very loud push for this issue, 29, to just be there and democratically vote on it. That's all we ask, and I don't, and you just stand up on our behalf and make that request to admin, because that's what you signed up to do.
- Dana Hamed.50: In 2017, one of my friends went to Gaza to work with the children. She built a really close bond with one of the girls or one of the boys. His name was Mohammed. Muhammad asks her a question. He asks her, what does the sound of silence sound like? Muhammad was only a little boy. He was a little boy, and he never knew what the sound of silence sounded like. Why was that? Why did he never know what the sound of silence sounded like? It was because perpetually he was bombarded by the sounds of missiles and bombs, and this was in 2017. On October 25th of 2023, alongside 8 of his brothers, 6 of his sisters, and both of his parents, Muhammad was murdered at 15 years old. My friend, her money went towards the killing of beautiful Muhammad. You can't stand here and tell me that our money and this institution and divestment from things like this does not matter, and something that really stuck out to me. When the Senator read off the President's letter to us, he told us that he was just as confused as we are about the fact that this issue was somehow overnight taken off the ballot. Why is that? Why is it that the majority of USG has no idea where



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Issue 29 went? Because this isn't a democratic process. USG does not support the voice of the people because they can't even uphold their own voices because OSU admin is doing dirty work behind the scenes. So I ask you, members of USG, did you become members of this institution and this organization to be mouthpieces to corruption? Did you do it so that you can bend, and that you can sell your souls to administrations? Did you do it, or did you do it to represent your people?

Schmidt:

- Hana El Nemr.2:
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Saini: I'll ask you the same question that Secretary Roy asked earlier, when you were talking about the money, and how this resolution, Issue 29, could impact lives in Palestine. Could you give more insight into that correlation between what you were talking about in that story?
 - o So, Issue 29 directly states to divest from the companies that are supplying military weapons and supplies to kill Palestinians overseas. That is directly what that does. This institution gives money, and lots of it as well, to companies like Caterpillar, who are directly killing Palestinians. And where does this money go? Where's the money that OSU gets to fund these companies? My tuition dollars, your tuition dollars, everyone in this room's tuition dollars, and I absolutely have a right to talk about the fact that I refuse for my money to go overseas and kill my people and kill the people around me and kill the people that I have grown up knowing. And I am not... I'm not Palestinian. I'm Egyptian. I am Egyptian but my brothers and sisters in Palestine are suffering every single day that this money gets



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contributed to it, and it is a black and white issue. It very much so is so.

The people who try to convolute this issue as something that is complex... it's very simple. We are simply stating to stop the funding of weapons that are being used to kill children. I have never found something more simplistic in my entire life. If 30,000 children, if 30,000 people, most of whom are children, isn't enough to divest, I don't know how to preach any other way, what other... what other means should be more for this institution to divest.

- Kerner: First, I'd like to thank you for coming to speak, but I know in your speech you mentioned briefly the word corruption. Can you expand on the context of that?
- So, the fact that we got word, well, now got word, that the fact that SJP and members of SJP were given emails at one in the morning, saying that Issue 29 just magically got off the ballot, and that it wasn't members of USG that got this issue off the ballot, but that it was OSU admin that got an issue, an issue that was fairly brought into this ballot that was democratically brought onto this ballot and that USG was supplying an election for, and in the middle of said election it gets pulled from the ballot is absolutely corrupt. It is absolutely corrupt. And the very fact that I've talked to several USG members, and they have no idea where the hell Issue 29 went is a problem, because it's telling me as a student, it's telling me as a member of your constituency, that you have no say in what's going on with issues that are going on our ballot, and how they're getting taken off. So I'm urging you as a student body, that if you are all nodding your heads with me when you say you have no idea what happened to this issue, to



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stand up for your rights, to stand up for your rights as a student body, a student constituency that represents students on this campus, to stand up against OSU admin. They have no right to do this to you. They have no right to just randomly decide when they can and cannot take issues off of a ballot in the middle of an election cycle, to say that that's democratic, and to say that that's something that I have to somehow invest my trust in is absolutely absurd, because I refuse to trust and have trust in a system like this.

- Saini: I've seen a couple people laugh. Multiple times. If we could ask in general to limit the laughing, this is a serious matter, and I don't appreciate it.
- Evans: I, as a senator, am also appalled by what admin has done. I'm in shock as well. I understand why you're upset because I'm also angry myself, and I understand that. What has happened is also very damaging to USG in general and how everyone instead of body, uses USG, and I personally want to do everything in my power to make sure that this in the body trust USG. We've had trouble in recent years because we've made mistakes, and I'm here to ask you, beyond an emergency resolution, beyond bringing to light and acknowledging the situation with the judicial panel as well as with administration! What can we as senators, and what can we, as USG do to gain your trust back?
- Look, I can tell you where to start, and it's honestly just echoing what every single one of my brothers and sisters have said, Bring back Issue 29. Let the student body fairly vote for this, and we will see where the votes lie, we will see where the votes lie. They will speak for themselves. Bring back



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Issue 29, let students vote on it. And when you see injustice being used in your name, you have every single right, and you have the power to speak up against that. I don't think that there's a single governing body that can prevent you from saying this does not speak for me. What OSU Admin has done has not spoken for me as a legislative body, as a body that represents its constituency. Speak for your constituency, speak for them, and let like speak for them, and tell OSU Admin. Speak to OSU Admin the reasons why you got elected into this position, and it's to speak for your constituency, and it's to speak for your people and speak for your students and your students want fair elections. That's all that they want, and continue to reiterate that until OSU Admin understands that you aren't a group of people that can just be pushed over. You're not people that can be pushed over. You got here fairly. You were elected here. You put time and effort into what you do. Speak up when you see injustice, speak up when you see things that are morally incorrect. Don't just hide behind OSU Admin, and speaking to The Lantern every now and then.

- Roy: Before I get into my question, I'd like to thank you for the statements that you have said that have provided us with solutions that we can do for you guys. But I also want to ask you, what can we do that correctly, I guess, provokes admin in a way that won't let them, you know, take away our budget because we do have a budget that is set by the university, and that can be taken away in the snap of a finger based on the things that we do. It has been done in the past, and it can be done in the future. So what would you say to students who represent you, but are afraid to get rid of the money that also goes toward you as students?



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- I think that goes back to my initial point of like, where do your priorities lie? Why did you decide to become a member of USG? Because what I'm hearing is, there's a great deal of corruption in that if you don't do this, this, this, and this, we will take away all of your money, we will take away all of your power, and as a student body, I mean, I think, that that has honestly been one of the most troubling things that I have heard today, the fact that they are going to weaponize your funds, and the very thing that allows you to operate the way that you can is concerning. And I say, you push back on that full speed ahead. There is power in numbers, there's power in organization, there is power in mobilization. You know exactly what is right and what's wrong? Read your own bylaws, read your rules and your regulations. They are meant to protect you. I've read them, they are meant to protect you. You go up to them with your grievances unapologetically, with your facts, with your statements as a collective. There is absolutely no way that an administration can censor you as a governing student body and weaponize your funding as a student body, that in and of itself should evoke a kind of resistance toward that this kind of corruption that will speak for itself. You show that you cannot be silenced and you refuse, and then they will refuse to silence you. They you show them that you cannot be silenced, and you cannot be shoved under the rug, you will see change. You will see change. It may be slow at first, it may be slow to start, but you have to make your presence known. You have to make your presence known.

Schmidt: we will thank this speaker and move to the next



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- Leah Norton.294: I just want to state a trigger warning for what I'm going to share. I'm going to read the story of Sapir, a 26 year old Israeli, who attended and survived the supernova rave. At 8 A. M. On October seventh, Sapir was hiding under a bushy tree when Hamas terrorists invaded the supernova music festival to kill as many people as they could. She had been shot in the back, but she survived. Here is her story reported by the New York Times. The first victim she said she saw was a young woman with copper colored hair, blood running down her back, pants pushed down to her knees. One man pulled her by the hair and made her bend over while another penetrated her, and every time she flinched he plunged a knife into her back. She said that she then watched another woman be shredded into pieces while one terrorist raped her. She said another pulled out a box cutter and sliced off her breast. One continues to rape her, and the other throws her breast to some one else, and they play with it, throw it, and it falls on the road. Sapir said the men sliced her face, and then the women fell out of view around the same time she saw 3 other women raped, and terrorists carrying the severed heads of 3 more women. This is one story of many women who were brutalized on October seventh. Since that dreadful day we have heard countless reports of gang, rape, murder, dismemberment, and torture of innocent people. We have heard of terrorists killing children in front of their parents and parents in front of their children.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Roy: Can you repeat this victim's name so we can identify her and her story?
 - o Sapir, 26, Israeli. This was reported by the New York Times



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- Schmidt: Seeing no further questions we thank the speaker and will move to the next speaker.
- Aya Rikabi.5: As-salamu alaikum, everyone. The Ohio State University's complacency in genocidal practices within occupied Palestine is disgraceful and disgusting as they invest in companies that are decimating the population of Palestine - 30,000 lives, and counting with millions displaced from their homes, simply from October seventh, let alone the hundreds of thousands of those slaughtered and displaced since 1948, that's 76 years of settler occupation, and taking the land of the indigenous, most of them women and children, each martyr dying for the sake of a free Palestine, had families and loved ones, just like every single one of us in this room. To give an idea, almost all of the Palestinians that have been murdered are under the age of 25 years old. Most of us are younger than that. I cannot unsee the images I have seen showing the atrocities happening within Reza and the West Bank - kids, babies as little as 2 years old, with both arms blown off, mothers screaming as they find their lifeless children's bodies under the rubble. Newlyweds slaughtered only a couple of weeks after their wedding. And the dehydration and starvation happening within Aza has been declared a humanitarian crisis. Although this is true, Zionists have blocked off humanitarian aid from dying people. Getting to those perishing, OSU is complacent, and in support of the genocidal practices within one of the most vulnerable communities in the world, living in a white supremacist, apartheid government. That they have no say in. OSU is deliberately funding the murder of entire family lineages of Palestinians. Furthermore, to allow the removal of an issue that was fairly placed on the ballot to be removed while undergraduate students were voting is a shameful act, and to continue the voting as if it's an



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issue, as if an issue was not taken off the ballot in the middle of the night is a direct hit to the so-called democracy. USG preaches you all as sitting senators that represent the voice of your constituents must take action. Thank you.

- Do you think there's a way in which OSU, and especially us, as senators, can make sure both Palestinians and Jewish lives are safe on campus, and their voices are heard?
- Yes, of course. I think the biggest misinformation that's been going around is the definition of anti-Semitism. As many people believe that anti-Semitism is the same thing as anti-Zionism, where it is incredibly different. Being anti-Zionist means that you believe in the freedom of Palestinians. You believe that in occupied Palestine the land will return back to the Palestinians, where Palestinians and Muslims and Jewish people and Israelis can all live in peace in Palestine. There's no apartheid walls. There's no denying people aid. There's none of that. Everything is free. And they actually get to vote in their democracies, which they do not get to do right now. So when it comes to things that we can do on campus to make sure that everybody feels safe, I would say, the biggest thing is to address that misinformation, I would say to. I know we received many emails that speak about the rising anti-Semitism and anti-Palestinian violence around campus, which is absolutely terrible, but I do believe that there have been many reports from Palestinians that have been put in that have not been addressed, that emails do not get put out, and it feels that they're silencing Palestinian voices or silencing pro-Palestinian people's voices and making us feel unsafe as a whole. So the biggest thing is to clear up that misinformation to create some clarity within this community, and



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to show everyone that being pro-Palestinian does not mean anti-Jewish does not mean any kind of anti-Semitism. It just wants freedom for all.

- Ginsberg: I'd like to say thank you to everyone for coming here. We genuinely do appreciate hearing from the public. I would like to say, as a Jewish student, as a Jewish individual who experiences anti-Semitism and hatred and anti-Zionism, which I will define for myself, I would like to understand why you believe you can define anti-Semitism for us. Tell us what it is. Tell us what it isn't. We are not telling you what Islamophobia is and what your hatred that you experience is. I just think it's important that we all speak for ourselves and not for other communities.
- I absolutely agree. I apologize if I've offended any of these communities. I did not mean to. I just believe that there is a global definition for Islamophobia, for anti-Semitism, for Zionism, anti-Zionism. And the problem is that when these definitions get mixed up, if somebody said like, "Oh, I really hate your earrings right now," I can't be like, "That's Islamophobic." Sorry, it's a little bit more about... I believe I really wish I had this definition on hand. So I apologize that I do not. But essentially, if you have these definitions mixed up, and if you don't have one definition that goes globally, then democracies like this one, like USG, like, then, you know, America won't be able to function because everybody will have their own opinions and ideals. But I do think that it would be best if we all looked into that, we all looked into that definition, if we all made it clear to ourselves. What each one is. And again, I apologize if I offended anybody.
- Evans: It's really fine if you don't have a statistic on hand. I welcome if anybody has a statistic on hand to speak about it in their own time. But do



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you know any estimate about how much money OSU gives to these companies, and about how much money would be divested if issue 29 were passed?

- Isabella Guinigundo.5: We have information from a 2009 report by OSU Investments. There are investments in HP. and Caterpillar. So the university currently classifies information on the investments as a trade secret. So any information we have about specific numbers has been obtained through unofficial channels. And yes, there is no current public information about investments; however, all the information that we have was gathered, as Hiba said, by previous campaigns who added up the amounts that we haven't invested in said companies. Yes, so I can't. We can't speak to the official numbers. But if you went and talked to the Office of Finance and Investments, they would be able to tell you that they do currently have investments in these companies. And because this university is not a democracy, they will not tell you how much.
- Is there any way that USG itself could work with administration and figure out this exact number? So we could have some clarity and transparency in that?
- Saini: A member of the public cannot ask a question to a member of the public that is speaking.
- Schmidt: I apologize, I took that as a rhetorical question
- Braziel: Point of Information: During this questioning and discussion period after a speaker has went, how much time are we allotting to the answering of questions? Per the bylaws?



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- Peters: There is no specific time estimation, it's just for what we have is the speaker list and we're just limiting it to one person, but there are no time limitations or anything specific to guide that in the bylaws.
- Walkup: Point of Information: part of OSU's investments also come from them hiring managers of their money who then make private investments. It might be kind of difficult to get a complete amount or to know what goes where. There's external managers and specialized investment cases.
- Schmidt: To clarify, a point of information is just to gather information from the chair, not to provide input.
- Roy: Can you repeat name for all of us to know who you are, please?
- Aya Rikabi
- Ginsberg: I would like to touch on the previous response to my question since I don't believe it was fully answered. I'd also like to say that we as a global Jewish community have a definition that is accepted by our community around the world. I will read that to clear up any confusion: Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations: Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual



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forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits. As a second-generation American with family who were persecuted in the Holocaust, I get to decide what anti-Semitism is for myself and community of Jews get to decide what it is. Why do you believe you are able to speak on anti-semitism?

- Thank you for reading that definition, I appreciate it. I apologize for not having it on hand.
- Miriam Saab: I have seen on the internet members of the Jewish community saying that they define anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism as different. Some people who spoke today define themselves as anti-Zionist Jews.
- Ginsberg: I didn't say that's impossible, I said most of the community.
- Schmidt: There will be no back and forth discussion, that is your first warning. Lack of following procedure will result in your removal from the chamber.
- Saini: Would you agree with the explicit definition that was provided by Senator Ginsberg? If you were to level a criticism against any other nation state, that is anti zionist and anti-semitic. Would you agree in that definition?
- Yes
- Saini: If you were to level a criticism equivalent to what you would level against any other nation-state, that that would be characterized as anti-Zionist and not anti-Semitic, as stated in the definition. If a criticism is leveled against the nation-state of Israel, that is characterized as anti-Zionist and not antisemitic—would you agree with that assertion?



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- I would agree with the assertion that anti-Zionism is attacking/wanting the Israeli State to provide freedom and equality for the Palestinians, and to allow the Palestinians to live without white supremacist ideals and without apartheid. I would also like to point out Jewish Voices for Peace, it's a great organization to look into, they have very clear definitions that they put out there. I mostly speak for my Jewish brothers and sisters who believe in a free Palestine.
- Ginsberg: Just to clarify that roughly 80% of the Jewish community accept something, 100% will never accept it. 2 Jews, 3 opinions is a saying that we have. Just to clarify, I don't speak for everyone.
- Schmidt: This is time for questioning and I will ask you to leave the chamber since this was your second time speaking out of line. It's causing an impact to how we are able to run this meeting.
- Ginsberg: Okay, then I have a question to add. Why do you believe you can define anti-Zionism if you are not a Zionist?
- Schmidt: No, I apologize, you will still have to exit the chamber at this moment. It's causing a disruption to how we are able to run our meeting and in order to run this meeting as smoothly as possible, we do ask that you leave the chamber now.
- Vaishampayan: Point of parliamentary inquiry: Robert's rules allow us to limit the number of questions and the amount of time we give to answers. Can the parliamentarian verify that accuracy?
- Peters: When it comes to speaking in open forum, that is limited to two minutes. When it comes to questions and a discussion period, there's no set limit.



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- Vaishampayan: Point of parliamentary inquiry: Are we able to set a limit?
- Peters: Yes, through a motion
- Saini: I motion to add a 2 question limit to the questions from senators to the public
 - Deerman: Point of information: Just to clarify, is this to set a 2 minute limit to the questions or responses?
 - Schmidt: It is to limit the amount of questions that each speaker can be asked to 2.
 - Diaz: Point of information: does that include back and forth?
 - Schmidt: absolutely no back and forth.
 - Roy: I want to ask why we think its ok for us to limit the speech of our constituents when they are coming here to ask us to do the job that we were elected to do?
 - Braziel: I think it is ok for us to limit it to allow more people the chance to speak. We have a lot of valuable constituents here and I would love to hear their voice. In order to properly hear everyone's thoughts about any matter that they would like to bring up tonight. It is worth limiting our discussion so that we can get through what everyone has to say in a proper and orderly manner. I don't think that we should be continuing on one particular discussion and spending as much time on it as we could, because we have so many people here who want to talk and want to give them voices. I think we should go ahead and limit discussion so we can continue our night



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- Vaishampayan: The benefit of limiting this to 2 questions is that it still allows us to seek clarification. It still allows us to ask questions without turning it into an interrogation. I think it's valuable to hear from as many people as we can. We are talking about the same issues over and over again, and so questions on the issue more broadly can be brought up at a later point. I also, with respect to all the senators in the room, personally, I'd rather hear from people who are here today. And so, even though there are 8 speakers on the list, I will move us to the previous question.
 - Motion to move to previous question:
 - 20-2-2 motion passes
- 17-5-5 motion passes
- Dana Hamed.50: I am here to speak to the General Assembly about the continuous discrimination and rise of Palestinian hate on campus. As a Palestinian myself, watching the death toll rise and Palestinians' lack of resources being diminished, I ask myself how the world is silent about these atrocities. How is this university silent about these atrocities? How is this university continuing to repress its Palestinian students? Ohio State has continued to censor the student body and has not taken its place in protecting its students. Hate speech has been circulating, and rather than speaking out and taking action, you have been silent, and you have stood with the oppressor. I should not be walking on this very campus wearing my Kofi and getting screamed out slurs regardless. If I'm wearing the kofiyah, wearing the hijab, being Muslim, Arab, or whatever religion I am affiliated with, I will constantly be targeted due to my Palestinian identity. There is no surprise that the rise of Palestinian hate has occurred, and



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this is evident when Wadiya el Fayoum, a 6-year-old boy, was stabbed 26 times because he was Palestinian. This is also shown by three Palestinian students, Hisham Awartani, Kenan Hamid, and Tassin Ahmed, who were shot in Vermont for wearing the Kofiya. Hisham is now paralyzed due to his injuries. Why is Ohio State not concerned for its students? Why has Ohio State continued to turn a blind eye? And what will you do when this occurs on your campus? Will you be satisfied if your students get hurt or killed due to your silence? You pride yourself on diversity, equity, and inclusion until it comes to marginalized groups and protecting your students. Why are we supporting funding genocide? Why are we justifying the killing of over 30,000 people in Gaza? We demand this university to bring back issue 29 and allow students to vote on it. We demand the USG Senators introduce an emergency resolution stating that what was done to our issue is discriminatory and have a special election take place for our election. Thank you.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Seeing none I will open it to the floor, any questions from senators please raise your hand
- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Catherine Adams.2590: I am a member of Ohio for Climate Justice, and I'm speaking today to call upon USG to pass a resolution that condemns the overreach and censorship of Ohio State University and calls for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative Issue 29. Palestine is one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world but is responsible for less than 0.01% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Despite this



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disproportionate impact, Palestine is repeatedly blocked from receiving climate funds and adaptation resources because of the Israeli occupation, the same occupation that has killed thousands of people in Gaza. Past efforts to build renewable energy infrastructure have been destroyed by the IDF, leaving residents in the West Bank without electricity in the brutal summer heat. Furthermore, Israel systematically prevents Palestinians from accessing clean water. There is no climate justice without demilitarization. There is no climate justice on stolen land. Free Palestine. USG has passed two resolutions now calling for fossil fuel divestment and climate justice. To all of you in the room who speak out for climate justice, I am calling on you now to speak up and demand divestment from Israel, because these are the same issues. Palestine is a climate justice issue. Again, I am calling upon USG to pass a resolution that condemns the overreach and censorship of Ohio State University, and to call for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative Issue 29. Free Palestine.

- Josh Kerner: Thank you for coming to speak today. I know you mentioned that you were a member of Ohio Youth for Climate Justice. Can you speak more to that organization? Is it affiliated with the University. What are your overall goals?
- Ohio for Climate Justice is not an official organization at OSU. We are a community group and statewide organization dedicated to mobilizing young people for bold climate action. Our group advocates for climate justice, which we believe requires the liberation of all oppressed peoples, and we currently organize a fossil fuel divestment campaign on Ohio State University's campus.



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- Jerry Cisse.24: The genocide in Palestine is impossible to ignore for our Muslim and POC friends. It is a constant reality. To expect them to go to classes and act as if nothing is wrong is extraordinarily cruel and representative of the true view of the University towards the genocide in Gaza: uncaring. Palestinians and Muslims are being faced with death and snuff films of loved ones, and people who look like them. A particular photo from a Palestinian journalist on Instagram depicts a young child that has been flattened by a tank, with ruptured organs strewn across the sand. A child's body, a red stain in the dirt, taken from a high-definition iPhone camera. Business as usual cannot continue in these conditions. The University is expressing just how little it cares for us, Muslim people of color students. But this is not new. The university was also resistant to divestment from South African apartheid until intense pressure from the community of students pressured them to divest from yet another immoral source of profit and funds. Let this be a reminder of how change is achieved: not by waiting for the oppressors to act, but by pressuring their hand to do what is right by the definitions of a government. USG has proved itself to be a useless institution, a government, no matter how small, that doesn't represent its constituents, has no right to exist. The removal of Issue 29 is a blatant injustice that should be condemned from all angles. It is clear that unless they challenge the OSU admin, they do not truly intend for democracy to prevail in this university. I'm not going to go through the findings of the ICJ. You should all be aware Israel is committing a genocide in Gaza. The majority of humans on earth support the end of the Israeli genocide on the Palestinian people. It is only an imperialist nation, such as this one, in which that fact is in debate. Free Palestine. And from Africa to Palestine, may all colonizers fail.



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- Mathebula: Thank you so much for speaking. I myself am South African, so I just kind of wanted to ask. Obviously, I wasn't around at the time of the apartheid situation. But I just wanted to ask for a little bit more context on the whole topic you touched on over to you not supporting the apartheid situation?
- Yeah, sure, I don't have, like, if you're looking for exact articles and sources and such like that. But I'm sure you could definitely find those as part of, I guess, public records. But it is true that OSU, along with the vast majority of universities in the United States, did have investments in South Africa during the apartheid era before 1991. And there were intense protests across the country, pushing these universities to divest from those investments.
- Littlejohn: Do you feel like your voice is heard in today's General Assembly?
- I definitely do feel like, of course, everyone in this room did hear me speak, but I think the question is whether they'll actually be receptive to what I and many of my comrades are saying today.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Komencanto Eterna Rupert.267: I have a speech that I wrote and prepared. But truly, I only have one thing to say, which is that it is USG's responsibility to allow for democracy among the undergraduate student body by not pushing the administration, by not allowing Issue 29 to be voted on. You have failed. That's



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all I have to say. You have failed. And I have 2 min, and I will look at you because you have failed and I'm disappointed.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Rahma Anjum.10: I just kind of wanted to respond to some of the tragic stories that we've been hearing from the Jewish students. I'm deeply, deeply sorry that these victims have had to share in the suffering that Palestinians have been all too familiar with for 75 years now. Luckily, we are all college-aged, and we know that 25,000 civilian dead in Gaza is far greater than 695 civilian dead in Israel, according to the United Nations. Now, they will continue telling their horror stories as though some bodies were worth more than other bodies, but know that Palestinian horror and trauma is far, far too vast to fit into 2 minutes, 2 hours, or even 2 years. While Israeli trauma is immense, ongoing, and most importantly, it is funded by the United States and its institutions, unlike Palestinian trauma. So why are we hearing these horror stories? I guess I was sitting in the meeting, and I was a little bit confused as to how these stories are relevant to the topic of a democratic vote to divest from weapons manufacturers, and to divest from even more trauma and horror. Then I kind of had the blood-chilling realization that these speakers are using civilian trauma, a really, really sad thing, to argue against divestment. This is nothing but vindictive. They are using civilian trauma to justify the funding of the continuation of what is happening in Gaza. And maybe I'm wrong. But this is the impression that I get, and it hurts. Moreover, they are using civilian trauma to justify blocking the democratic process for



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students to vote on the spending of tuition dollars. And I just want to give you credit that the USG made the brave decision to add Issue 29 to the ballot on Sunday because they said that the supposedly violated bylaws were unclear and outdated.

- Littlejohn: Can you clarify your last point? I saw your time was running out so I was just wondering, what's the rest of what you were going to say?
- I just wanted to say that we ask you to uphold this great decision, to preserve democracy, and we ask you to hold a special election to make up for this mistake, for a special election to vote on Issue 29. That's all. I appreciate that this was a democratic process, and I'm sorry that it was canceled, and I hope that it can be fixed.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Mohammad Mohammad.91: I want to address a very concerning issue on this campus. It is absolutely disgusting that as a Palestinian, this university has failed to recognize the genocide that is unfolding right in front of us. Let's make this clear. This did not start on October seventh. This started 75 years ago. 75 years of ethnic cleansing of my people. Since October, the people of Gaza have witnessed bombings of hospitals, churches, mosques, schools, and residential buildings, and on top of this, 14,000 children have been massacred by the Israeli occupation forces. I will say that again, 14,000 children were massacred by the Israeli occupation forces. OSU has failed to release any statement condemning these attacks on Palestinians in Gaza. There is absolutely no justification for the



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murder and massacres of 30,000 people in Gaza. You all as sitting senators that represent the voices of your constituents must take action. Pass a resolution that condemns the overreach and the censorship of Ohio State University, and call for an urgent special election immediately after spring break for the divestment initiative of Issue 29. And for the people who were asking how much money OSU divests to Israeli corporations, any amount is too much. Thank you.

- Roy: What would you say to admin if you were speaking to them and not us
- I've been speaking to Admin for several months. They've been ignoring me. I've had meetings with them, they still haven't done anything. It's disgraceful and disrespectful. I believe some of them are here in this room right now. And they're on their phones, or either laughing right now. So I just want to say that they've been ignoring us for months already.
- Price: Could you clarify who those conversations were with?
- Melissa Shivers. Jeff Pelletier, the gentleman on his phone right now, like I said. He's on his phone, not listening. Oh, and President Ted Carter.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Yousef Munir.22: My name is Yousef, and I'm another member of Ohio Youth for Climate Justice. Today, I'm here to say that Issue 29 belongs on the ballot. And this is not a question. If you are pro-Issue 29 or against Issue 29, though if you are against Issue 29, you are pro-genocide, and I hope you can live with that. This is a question of if you are pro-democracy. This is a question about whether USG is



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a body worth anything. If this admin, if OSU's administration is able to come in and decide what students in their own student government are able to vote on, this body becomes nothing. Your senatorship becomes nothing because nothing more than a little byline you can put on your resume. But I don't believe that most of you are here for an addition on your resume. I believe that most of you are here because you want to represent and listen to your student constituency. So listen. Keep Issue 29 on the ballot, show that you are anti-genocide, pro-liberation, and at the very, very least, pro-democracy. That is what this comes down to. This comes down to whether you deserve a voice. This comes down to whether you think this university has the right to silence a body that is meant to represent them. This comes down to whether you are anti-genocide, pro-liberation, and at the very, very least pro-democracy. Divest from Israel. Now.

- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
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- Malath Abudulwahed.3: Ohio State is complicit in genocide. I'm going to repeat that: Ohio State is complicit in genocide. I am truly ashamed to attend a university that is aware of the current genocide happening in Palestine, as they continuously contribute, through funding, to the slaughter and massacre of innocent Palestinian lives. Every day there are innocent lives lost, many of which are children, over 30,000 lives lost, and still counting—30,000. How many more people, both dead and alive, are being run over by bulldozers, tanks, and many more vehicles? At least 7 children lose at least one or two of their limbs every day. Many mothers are still searching for their children under the rubble, while the



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USG President and the Vice President are at the hospital currently seeking treatment. Many Palestinians still lack treatment and are unable to have access to any hospitals, as they have all been destroyed by Zionists, and the money being funded to carry out this genocide by OSU! Palestinians are fighting against malnutrition. This is a humanitarian crisis. Aid is currently being blocked off from entering Gaza, and with some aid entering, Palestinians are losing their lives trying to access this aid to provide for their families and their children. Family members leave their families to gather food supplies and any form of aid, but many do not return, as they are deemed and looked at as threats. And most recently, in the most recent election, Issue 29 was removed from the ballot at midnight, and let alone mid-election, without any reasoning provided to the student body. Where is the democracy? The Ohio State and USG admin praise themselves, but there is no democracy. Such removal of Issue 29 is not only shameful, but it's also silencing the voice of students, especially Palestinians. All of you senators represent the voices of your constituents, and you must take action. Our demand: bring back Issue 29, and let students vote on it through a special election.

- Evans: So my question to you is, beyond what has been discussed, assuming Issue 29 gets on the ballot, all the asks that you guys have been asking, what more as a body can we do to help Palestinian liberation?
- I think it's really important to recognize that there is a genocide. To begin with, not only is it being denied by multiple governments across the world, but it's being outright denied by the people who are committing this genocide. So for you guys to basically recognize that as a genocide is very important for us. And like, pass the issue, and making sure that Issue 29



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makes it back on the ballot. Addressing what is happening in Palestine as a genocide is very important.

- Roy: On behalf of my role in USG, I would like to apologize for the things that have been done in silencing our voices and democracy. Because I, as a member of USG, I did have a role in that. And my question to you is, if Issue 29 was brought back on, and it did happen to get a majority, what would you hope the effect would be from the passage of Issue 29?
- Honestly, I hope that this reaches many other universities, and they follow the same. Some universities have already divested and voted on a divestment issue. So it's important that OSU follows and encourages many other universities. We are a big university here in Ohio, and we are known. So let us, like, just you guys, by allowing this issue back on the ballot. And if it does get the majority vote, and it does get passed. That's a statement in itself.
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- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Izzy Warburton.31: For the past 5 months, I have watched as my university, a place I have come to call my home, has ignored and neglected the pleas of its students. I have watched as this university puts more time and care into its connections with companies rather than its student body. I've watched as Ohio State has stripped away the choice for the students to have a say in how this institution spends its money. I have watched Ohio State believe that it cannot support multiple communities simultaneously, surprising caring for both Jewish



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and Palestinian students is possible, and it is not a radical request. I have spent my life being frustrated with authority and how they use their power to benefit themselves rather than helping and uplifting communities that need and deserve it. Over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza. The United States and the Ohio State University continue to send money to Israel so they can continue their atrocious war crimes. I am one of 5 children. 3 of my older siblings have gone to this university. How much money has my family given to this university to spend on a genocide? How many times do we have to show you dead children? How many times do we have to emphasize that Palestinian voices need to be heard? How can you sit back and watch all this happen and still choose to remove the voice, the vote of students? Where is the fairness? Where is the democracy? I'm demanding that Ohio State takes a stance. I am demanding that they listen to what their student body wants, and I am demanding that the status quo at this university be challenged. Bring back Issue 29 and return the students' right to vote. I'm asking as someone who's sick of the death and destruction: bring back Issue 29, and divest from genocide, and complete an emergency resolution in this Senate.

- First of all, thank you for your statement, and second, I would like to ask what you would like to have come from this if Issue 29 were to get back on the ballot, which is, you know, our end goal. We are all here to get that here, so we can hear the voices of students. But if that were to get back on the ballot, and that were to pass, what would you expect the University to do? Because I do know that divestment is illegal in Ohio, and then I also want to ask a second question, what would you say to the officials who are



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afraid to speak out because they don't want to anger a person from one side or the other?

- So I was asking what you would hope to come from us passing Issue 29, because if in the end this divestment is illegal in the State of Ohio, what would you want to come from Issue 29 instead? I get that we are, you know, making our students' voices heard. But is there an end goal that is associated with this as well?
- Similar to what those before me have said, I guess the University just listening to Palestinian voices and pro-Palestinian voices is so important, and letting it be known that students on campus are facing just are experiencing such horrible feelings and emotions, and recognizing that there is a genocide happening, and Ohio State doing its best to protect the communities on this campus and off-campus, and that's what I, and I hope that other universities follow suit, and it can become more of a collective action nationwide.
- Price: In terms of creating meaningful change, and knowing that you can yield your time to somebody else who may have this answer? Are there specific other universities that you can point to that went through similar initiatives beyond their student government and actually in the University administration?
- Yeah, UC Riverside and UC Davis both divested. I yield my time to Matt.
- Matt Levine: You know, the thing about UC Davis is that actually, two days after the resolution was passed, there were Hello Kitty Hamas stickers that surfaced all across campus. So, I just want you to know, Senator Roy, I'm gonna go back to you for a second. If you're gonna be prepared to pass a resolution like this, I want you to understand the severe implications--



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- Schmidt: Okay, please. Everyone. Mute their mics right now. It is up to the speakers discretion to allow yielding of time, and I have been allowing it right now. But I'm not gonna let this turn into a debate. With that I'm going to end yielding time on this question. Also, what is being discussed in open forum right now, except for the resolution that is on our agenda, is not able to be debated today.
- Roy: point of information. I do plan to motion to either postpone or adjourn this meeting around 10:45, as soon as I hear those bells. That is, when I do plan to make that motion. The intent is not to silence voices. The intent is just to follow procedure, that's all.
- Ryan DeMilt.4: I thought to begin my time tonight with a moment of silence for those martyred in Gaza. But if I were to take but a second for every child killed in the last 5 months, I would be silent for the next 3 hours. Boycott, divestment, and sanctions are the primary, peaceful weapons of resistance against this act of mass killing and against violence that has persisted long before October of last year. 2023 was the deadliest year in Palestine for children in the West Bank, far from Gaza. We demand that this body, which claims to represent its students, reintroduce Issue 29 and allow for a special election for students to vote on this issue and make their voices heard. We also demand that an emergency resolution be introduced to investigate the discriminatory nature of dismissing this issue, and since it is clear there is support for this issue in this chamber, to discuss how to deal with the fact that the administration supposedly holds more power over you than the voices you claim to represent.
 - o Saini: Are you aware that you mentioned boycott or BDS as a peaceful means of resistance? Are you aware that Ohio State has engaged in similar



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divestment procedures in both South Africa and Sudan in the past, and they have been effective in removing regimes in those areas?

- I am aware of this. I'm also aware that currently, according to Ohio State law, boycott, divestment, and sanctions are presently illegal. This should not, however, discourage advocacy for this to continue. If the law is unjust, the law should be changed. Opposition should continue, whether it is procedurally illegal, but on the basis that it is correct.
- Hickman: Yeah, thank you so much for speaking. I'm asking you this question, but it's also going to the speaker. I liked your point about doing an investigation into the judicial panel. I think, in general, there's been a lot of issues with that branch. Throughout this entire process, as someone who saw that initiative on the ballot and then removed, I think that's just a really bad look in general. So, to the Secretary or to the Speaker, if we were to pass at some point a resolution that was an investigation into the judicial panel, would that have any binding effect or no? I'm just gonna clarify with our Parliamentarian, and it might be a few questions during this period of time.
- Schmidt: I can say that if GA was to take action to investigate the acts of the judicial panel. We really don't have oversight in that area.
Unfortunately, our bylaws state that the election is to be solely managed by the judicial panel, and our only responsibility is to pass the election bylaws which we had done earlier this semester. With that, I know that currently people are, currently the judicial branch is trying to right their wrong and actually have the proper process to determine whether or not this should go on the ballot. I'm not saying we can't censure them in any way, but we



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can't like we can call for an investigation to happen, but we don't have the jurisdiction to do an investigation, and unfortunately, we can't do back-and-forth or follow-up questions at this time.

- Kerner: I know you mentioned that. I believe it was anti-BDS movements are illegal in Ohio right now. I guess my question to you is, what the purpose of advocating for Issue 29 is here when it's the State House that would change that law.
- So the anti-BDS law or the bill is unconstitutional, and if it's challenged, it will be struck by the courts. Also, six courts in different states found it to be unconstitutional, and the legislatures amended it to make it not applicable.
- Schmidt: We will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Madeline Cohen.1136: I am going to list some of the bylaw infractions from issue one to help explain why it was taken off the ballot. The appeal was filed late, and therefore must be dismissed. The judicial panel lacks authority to call a special election. Neither the Constitution, the organizational bylaws, the election bylaws, nor the standing rules provide for a special election. For this reason the judicial panel specifically declined to hold a special election in 2,015, and must decline to do so again. Now the prior decision to remove the initiative from the ballot was correct when the judicial panel initially ruled on February 20. Fourth, that the initiative lacked the required 1,000 valid signatures, it ruled correctly. Each initiative must have one or more designated certain circulators. Osu divest acknowledges that noncirculators conducted outreach on social media. In order to obtain the required 1,000 signatures to ensure equity, and accountability. We must uphold our student code of conduct. I want to set the record straight.



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Proponents of the Bds referendum are claiming that the removal of the question was undemocratic, but the issue was paused precisely to protect our democratic process. The judiciary panel is simply attempting to investigate and correct missteps within the petition process. That is the definition of a democratic process. I support J. The Jps attempt to ensure that we are engaging with a divisive issue that deeply impacts multiple communities on campus with respect, integrity, and in accordance with our constitution and bylaws. I understand that some of my peers feel that this issue should be addressed urgently. I wanna point out that the accus accusations being made against Israel in front of this body tonight were recently brought before the International Court of justice which ruled, they would not accept South Africa's request for an immediate ceasefire. However, they did issue a request for the immediate release of hostages. If the international Court of Justice. The highest court in the world has determined that the evidence they reviewed does not suggest a level of urgency that would lend itself to ordering an immediate ceasefire. Why should we be rushing our process especially given the smell symbolic nature of the referendum, we should not compromise the integrity of our process by rushing this vote, when even the highest court in the world is unwilling to do so, to do so.

- Davis: Could you expand a little more on the bylaws that you mentioned regarding the signatures, and how those are meant to be collected?
- Matt Levine: Specifically, I want to highlight the most flagrant bylaw infraction, which was the fact that the initial decision that came down from the judicial panel was on February 20th. Third, the opposition had 5 days to file the appeal. The appeal was filed on February 29th. I'm not a math major, but I could count the numbers correctly, and it's going to be 6



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days. The appeal was filed on the 29th; therefore, the appeal should have never even been considered. That is the most flagrant infraction, and I look forward to the judicial panel correcting those errors and maintaining our democratic process.

- Brazil: Given the decision of the judicial panel, do you think it's wise to reconsider their decision or not?
- Matt Levine: Well, I think it's wise to bring in a new Chief Justice, one who understands the bylaws properly and can see that there were clearly bylaw infractions that were not taken care of. And that's part of the reason why we're here tonight. Make no mistake, the democratic process is in danger if this issue is on the ballot. Come on, guys, it's 5 days for 6 days. You know, the appeal was not filed correctly. Therefore, there should be no conversation about whether this should be on the ballot or not. The clear answer is, it shouldn't even be on the ballot. You guys could try again next year, and all the power to you, but follow the rules. And that's why we have rules in place here, and those rules need to be followed so that USG democracy is protected.
- Ellis: Point of privilege: What's the merit on that claim? So from the 5 to 6 days. What's the merit on that claim. And bylaws aside, how do we find the information to know the amount of days it took to be filed?
- Schmidt: I am not fully aware of what the judicial panel bylaws are. I do believe there was an issue, but I do not want to speak out with authority, not being 100% sure.



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- Saini: I would suggest looking at the judicial panel's website, and if you can't find the information you look for there, email the new Chief justice and find that information.
- Schmidt: Unfortunately, issue 29 does not fall within our jurisdiction. I just wanted to remind, yeah, I'll reiterate that again. We, as a general assembly, have no authority over our elections except passing the election bylaws, which we did earlier this year. What goes in the ballot? The process of ensuring that bylaws were followed, and all of that is handled solely by the judicial branch.
- Price: point of inquiry: So if we were to appoint a new Chief Justice, say at the next session, that would be introduced as new business that would come after any business that we don't get to today?
- Schmidt: Yes, that would be correct. However, this, it's an internal system that they use to appoint a new Chief Justice, and that new Chief Justice has already been appointed
- Price: Do we have to approve that?
- Peters: I do not believe so
- Julius McIntyre: When you guys initially already approved the judicial panel at the beginning of the year. Technically, you already approved them to serve in their role. So they just had an internal process to elect the new judicial Justice or Chief Justice to replace the one the former one did resign, and I know that information on the judicial panel website is with the most up-to-date information regarding the new Chief Justice. At least, that's what I was told.
- Colish-Patrick: Would it be possible for us to bring the judicial panel before us for questioning before the USG Chamber?



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Schmidt: On Sunday night, I reached out to every single member of the judicial panel asking for them to come speak to the General Assembly. Purely for the fact that I know we, as senators, were getting some questions, and I wanted to make sure we had the most accurate information that we could share and with there being little information on the website. I asked them to come speak. I had not received any response from any of the members of the judicial panel. If they were to come speak, it would be during open forum. And again, you have the ability to ask questions during that time.

- Jana Abu-Baker.2: I am a Palestinian American, and I'm here to represent bringing back issue 29. I'm not the best communicator, but I will attempt to be succinct and concise. So please, just bring back issue 29. Is this not a democracy? I mean, they got the votes. Let students vote on it in a special election after spring break. I fully support it, and I signed it myself days before. I mean, I just implore the Usg. Senators to have an emergency resolution. Take action and please use your voices to disparage Osu! Admin for removing the issue off the ballot. This isn't really about religion. It's a serious issue about funding death, starvation, and destruction in Gaza. So again, please bring back issue 29, and also, please don't spread misinformation.
 - Hickman: Yeah, thank you for speaking today. After spending your entire night bravely being here and spending your time here, how would you say you feel about the undergraduate student government and its ability to represent you through its many bylaws, rules, and jurisdictions that might be a little bit hard to understand?
 - I'm pretty new. I'm like a first year, right? So just like so far doing like what I'm supposed to be being a part of the, you know, USG or not USG, but like being a part of this, you know, student body I like. so I don't know



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much about this. I signed what I signed right, thinking that it would be it would work out, but just to have it all just go to waste because of a day's difference. Mind you, I don't really know what's going behind the scenes. But were they not like? Did they know that it was on the 28th when it should have been the 29th? That wasn't clear. I yield my time.

- Jineen Musa: I think there's been a couple of things mentioned today that are tangible items that you guys can do in your positions. We understand that you're not the judicial panel. You're not able to amend these things, but you should be taking action through your right to bring about resolutions, which is what each person that has spoken today has ended their speech with. I mean, they're asking for you to condemn what OSU has done, and then to also allow for the special elections to take place. We've been laying out the timeline of quite literally everything that has happened. So it's not as if the information is unclear or that things aren't being shared with the public. They are. They're just being ignored. So if you actually cared about the issue, I would tell you all to look at SJP's Instagram. Read the statements made. There have been countless statements made. And do your job.
- Price: Your last point was, I believe, a stop spreading misinformation. Can you clarify who that was directed at, and what specific misinformation you were talking about?
- Jineen Musa: Well, I believe the misinformation she's speaking about is what Matt Levine just said right now, which is misinformation. The entire judicial panel has, in fact, committed countless bylaw violations. And, as I said, it's been clear. So this is misinformation. If you are ignoring that, I



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know he's received emails as well, laying this out, so to claim that is completely incorrect, and he knows it.

- Schmidt: We will thank this speaker and move to the next
- Ali Omar.128: I hope that at this point, after you've heard so many of my peers' voices, that I don't need to further contextualize the catastrophic genocide that is playing out in Palestine. The additional concern I want to bring to your attention is the worry over students' voices being heard and the integrity of the supposed democracy that USG stands for. How can any student feel heard and represented when issues can be simply stripped off a ballot after being democratically placed on it? How can any student feel confident and encouraged to advocate for any type of policy when they face the threat of their issue being thrown out with no justification? Your and the Administration's actions do not only disgrace and violate the efforts and voices of BDS, SJP, and over a thousand of your peers. Your actions have effectively violated and threatened the voices of every single student here at the Ohio State University by entirely failing to uphold your duty to preserve and promote the very voices that elected you. Be the voices you're elected to be. Reinstate Issue 29 back on the ballot. Retain your integrity and let democracy determine your actions as you're elected to do. Thank you.
 - o Littlejohn: It's USG's responsibility to represent our constituencies. Do you think we should continue to exist if we can't represent the constituencies who have voiced their opinions today?
 - o Why do you exist if you're not representing your constituencies? I think that's the sole purpose of the USG, to begin with, so correct me if I'm wrong.
- Schmidt: We will thank this speaker and move to the next



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- Amanda Fanale.4: I pray that you are not tired, because the people of Palestine have not had the chance to be tired. The children of Palestine do not understand the dream of peaceful sleep, as their nights are filled with bombs, terror, and destruction. I pray the members of the Senate. You members who get to sit nicely in your chairs, understand the privilege and opportunity that you have in your safe building. That is not under the threat of bombing. I pray that you I do not have to explain the evilness of the British Empire to you, of colonization to you this empire that bolstered the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and were the backbone of the decimation of indigenous Americans. This very British Empire are the people who dug their hands into the soil of Palestine, and ripped the land out from beneath their feet. None of you have the power to change this history, but this does not mean you are powerless to the members of USG. Use the power that you have to put. Issue 29 back on the ballot. Do not allow the grip of administration frighten you. You are supposed to have power, or are you a lame duck? Are you just a proxy government? Issue 29 means to us that the students of the Ohio State will no longer be complicit in unjust murder. Issue 29 means that if voted in favor, the tuition money of every one in this room will no longer go towards funding weapons and bombs, that decimate hospitals, hospitals, children, and innocents. Thank you and free Palestine.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Seeing none I will open it to the floor, any questions from senators please raise your hand
- Seeing none we will thank this speaker and move to the next



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- Leena Jafri.39 : I want to start by saying I have never felt so ashamed to be a Buckeye. This country claims itself to be democratic and free. and this university and its undergraduate student government claim itself to stand on these principles. But if that was true, we wouldn't be here right now. Every day I wake up and watch a genocide on my phone. I watched the bombing of innocent people. Do you know what would happen if a bomb was dropped on Columbus. the outrage would be unimaginable. But what? Because they're Palestinian? It doesn't matter. It's disgusting, and it is horrifying when is enough. Enough. The very least this university can do in the face of genocide is not invest in companies that profit from it. And even if you don't believe that there is a genocide going on, the very least this university can do for its students is to listen to them when they have an opinion on where the university's funds are going. bring back issue 29, and let students vote on it through a special election and have us. G. Senators do an emergency resolution and take accountability for their discriminant action of removing our issue off the ballot.
- Schmidt: I will now open the QR code for questions, anyone with questions please sign up now.
 - o Roy: I want to hear what your response would be to if you were to speak to someone who is afraid of angering both sides. An admin who is afraid of having to choose, who's afraid of the repercussion that could come from that. Whether it be financially, personally, socially. What would you say to that person?
 - o Jewish Lives matter. Israeli lives matter. Muslim lives matter. Palestinian lives matter. Choose life.



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- Price: Since you are the last speaker of the night, what would you like to close out with?
- Free Palestine.

Roy: motion to end open forum for the public

15-5-5

Vaishampayan: I motion to adjourn

21-3-1

Adjournment:

10:50pm

The following will be old business for the next meeting:

III. Executive Report

- a. *President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Madison Mason*

IV. Updates

- a. *Speaker Sarah Schmidt*
- b. *Parliamentarian Keyanah Peters*
- c. *Secretary Mykenna Roy*

V. Committee Reports

- a. Allocations Committee
- b. Oversight Committee
- c. Issue Committee Reports
 - i. Academic Affairs
 - ii. Black Caucus
 - iii. Health and Safety
 - iv. Governmental Relations



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- v. Justice and Equity
- vi. Student Affairs
- vii. Sustainability

VI. Old Business

- a. 56-R-33: A Resolution to Amend the Organizational Bylaws to Improve Article 1 Section 2

VII. New Business

- a. Oversight Election
- b. Academic Affairs LC Election

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment