



Alex Poling Speaker

2094B Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
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56th General Assembly
Spring 2024, Session 20
February 14th, 2024

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order: 6:40
- b. Land Acknowledgment
- c. Attendance
- d. Swearing in of Alternates
- e. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for the Public

- a. Annalise Khandelwal.60
 - i. Hello, my name is Annalise Khandelwal, and I am a fourth-year undergraduate student studying environmental science with a minor in neuroscience. I also serve as the deputy director of climate advocacy in the Undergraduate Student Governments sustainability committee. I am present today to support resolution 56 R 27, a call for Ohio State to take responsibility in funding the infrastructure of the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. During my four years as an undergraduate student here at Ohio State, I have found a passion for the scientific discoveries made during the process of research. As this interest of mine progressed, I made the decision to pursue a Masters and PhD program after I graduate in May of 2025. For those of you who do not know, research experience is crucial to students who are interested in pursuing a professional career in research or academia. Since the Byrd polar and climate research center has been established, many students have reached out and asked how they can get involved with research and education outreach for polar studies. Because of the failing HVAC system, the data that can be collected regarding temperature, gas and geological history that comes from the Byrd Centers ice cores is limited. I am urging the University to budget for funding for the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center so that students' curiosity for polar research no longer must be turned down due to a failing HVAC system. Giving students the opportunity to conduct research on these ice cores will not only further establish Ohio States merit for conducting climate research, but it will also help the world close the knowledge gap surrounding anthropogenic climate change. Because this resolution will enhance the opportunity for discovery and education for students here at The Ohio State University, It is necessary that the general assembly pass resolution 56 R 27.



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b. Narang.35:

- i. Hi my name is Ria Narang and I'm a 3rd year in environmental engineering. I am part of the climate advocacy subcommittee in the Undergraduate Student Government. I'm here today to express my support for Resolution 56-R-27, the resolution to fund the renovation of the Byrd Polar Climate Research Center. The Ohio State University has outlined in its Sustainability Goal #4 that the University will magnify sustainability scholarly output and impact to increase Ohio State's national/international reputation as a sustainability research leader. The Byrd Polar Climate Research Center has proved foundational climate change theories and evidence to be true with their ice core data, some from ice cores that no other facility in the world has access to, and will no longer have access to due to accelerated glacial melting rates, such as from Mount Kilimanjaro. Dr. Lonnie Thompson, head researcher of the ice core lab, has even presented these findings in front of the US Congress, bringing climate change to the forefront of US politics. The failing HVAC system of the ice core facility damages much of Ohio State's progress on their own sustainability goal as the Byrd has an international reputation and has the potential to further push Ohio State's reputation forward in the world of sustainability scholarship. I'm sure you're thinking, 15 million dollars for a refrigerator is kind of expensive. But the refrigerator isn't being used for people to grab their grilled cheese during their lunch break. It's being used to house invaluable data that has the potential to fix major climate change issues and once again, advance Ohio State's reputation as a powerhouse for climate change research. Additionally, A 15 million dollar renovation would pay itself off in nine years according to Byrd Polar professionals, as the facility has brought in over 45 million dollars to Ohio State, and more importantly international accolades from the scientific community, helping Ohio State to fulfill Sustainability goal number 4. The estimate for the renovation was 9 million as of 2016, Ohio State's failure to act on renovation has increased this number to 15 million. This is a matter of failing infrastructure, and it is Ohio State's duty to fix it to ensure that years of climate change research are not damaged, and to make room for even more. It is for these reasons, and more, that I urge you to approve Resolution 56-R-27. Thank you.



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c. Emma Hart.987:

- i. Hi, my name is Emma Hart, and I am a sophomore Environmental Policy and Decision-Making major and a representative on the USG sustainability committee. I'm here today to voice my support for resolution 56-R-27 that will allow Byrd Polar Climate and Research Center to continue its crucial research. The Byrd is an elite facility that houses ice cores that have given scientists precious data on anthropogenic climate change. These ice cores are currently compromised because of the dilapidated conditions of the facility that OSU has yet to address. As a student who is interested in policymaking and government, the Byrd's data is critical to informing climate change policy. If the Byrd does not receive funding to fix the infrastructure, policymakers will not have the necessary data to make informed decisions to protect their constituents from the impacts of climate change. The funding for the Byrd has been a subject of controversy but I believe it to be completely feasible. Ohio State receives millions of dollars from the Ohio General assembly Capital budget on a biennial basis. Ohio State could very well apply for allocations on behalf of the Byrd to fix the HVAC system but has failed to do. I urge the General Assembly to pass this resolution that would call on the university to do its job and protect the crucial data that the Byrd stores.

d. Malhotra.161:

- i. Hi my name is Mallika Malhotra and I am a second year EEDS major with a sustainability and business concentration. I'm a representative on the USG sustainability committee and am here today to talk about the Byrd resolution and why I believe that it is so crucial for GA passes. First of all, I personally know people who work at the Byrd and have learned a tremendous amount about climate and earth systems modeling, including my fellow deputy director Annalise. It also helps students publish an enormous amount of research, 103 student publications in 2023 alone. The Byrd desperately needs this funding because the coolers are failing, which is diminishing the ability of students to participate in this research. From a business perspective, not funding this facility is truly a waste of an amazing asset to this university. It's not only well used by students, but the Byrd holds tropical ice cores from mountains that don't even exist anymore. It is world renowned from climate scientists. These ice cores are melting due to the failing coolers and we are losing precious data. As a student within the school of environment, the Byrd is so precious to me and provides so many career and research opportunities to me and my peers. As you will hear from my fellow committee members, the Byrd has asked OSU for adequate



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infrastructure funding for years to no avail. It's time to change this pattern and support our existing assets which provide phenomenal benefit to students and world scientists alike. Please vote to pass the Byrd resolution. Now I'm going to speak on Lilly's de roseys behalf, the director of the sustainability committee for the divestment resolution 56 R 2 .I am a 4th year majoring in environmental engineering and humanitarian engineering. Though I cannot make it to the public forum tonight, I would still like to express my support for Resolution 56-R-28, the resolution to call upon The Ohio State University to divest from the fossil fuel industry and invest in climate-friendly organizations. This resolution is an ongoing effort from students who believe in climate action and divestment, and for years, Ohio state has ignored these cries. It is imperative that this resolution passes in order for this university to remove itself from the outdated narrative that climate change is not an imminent threat. Our university's investments are actively harming vulnerable communities through their support of the fossil fuel industry. This industry is not economically sustainable and it is not the future. Ohio State is one of the few big 10 schools that have not committed to greener investments, and it is time that we step up and be a sustainability leader in the big 10. Therefore I implore you to use your vote to pass this resolution. Pass this resolution and tell the university that their students do not want our funds invested in the fossil fuel industry. Thank you.

III. Executive Report

- a. *President Bobby McAlpine and Vice President Madison Mason*
 - i. *Mason: Really interesting meeting with executive director of REACH and talked about how to promote program. Potentially promoting it by increasing funding for orgs that have training. We want to advocate for suicide prevention and mental health training. She was extremely supportive of having the program out there.*
 - ii. *CBRC has seen a resignation, the NON USG member has resigned pending his impeachment form RHAC. Will be talking about how to fill the vacancy. We must have a non usg member present in order to vote. Really trying to get this done as I don't want to pass it off to the next president. Will be getting another name soon to vote on.*
- b. *MCALPINE: talking about the state of Ohio gave money directly to public and private colleges to address mental health concerns. OSU got about 4 million. Madison and I*



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have researched free therapy on the phone within 30 minutes. Students can sign up for it and have a therapist matched within 24 hours mostly in 30 minutes. For emergencies and weekends it's a good alternative.

IV. Updates

a. Speaker Alex Poling

- i. For people who turned in petitions with 50+ signatures but were rejected due to not attending an info session, the Judicial Panel should be sending you a recording of the info session soon. That should hopefully fix the issue. If you haven't heard anything by next week, please let me know.
- ii. Thank you all for submitting responses on the feedback survey I sent out in the group chat and the weekly email. If you haven't filled that out yet, we will continue monitoring it for the next week, so please get your responses in as soon as possible.
- iii. Based on the feedback we've received, these are some of the changes we'll be implementing today:
- iv. I am not going to be as forgiving going forward when people are having side conversations that are disruptive and disrespectful to your fellow senators and our guests in this chamber. You will get a maximum of 2 warnings before I will temporarily remove you from the chamber for being out of order.
- v. If you are confused about what's going on or want to make a point of parliamentary procedure (to correct a mistake), you may interrupt the chair for those reasons.
- vi. Please direct all discussion points to the chair. I know I've been part of the problem there, but we need to be better about that. I will try to remind you.
- vii. We will be using a new software to create a formal speakers list. You can add yourself to that list using the QR code or the link we will send in the Zoom chat and the GA groupme. If you have any technical difficulties or do not have a device, I can manually add you as well.
- viii. The results on voting methods are still split in the survey. In general, simultaneous voice voting for motions was not popular. More people preferred hand raising (our current method), but enough people were in favor of doing an online poll that I think it's worth trying today. If people hate it, we don't have to do it again. We will still start with unanimous consent when applicable.
- ix. For people on Zoom: I know there was some confusion about whether or not your votes were counted last week. All of your votes were counted, but there was some moments of confusion when people voted in the chat and put



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other comments in there as well. Using the Zoom functions to “raise hand” or the yes/no buttons might work better for voting on motions.

b. *Braziel: Point of Info: DO we have a formal reason why the JP changed their review?*

i. *Poling: I reached out to them as many students said they did not know that was happening and they are willing to be accommodating and next year hopefully it will be better.*

c. *Parliamentarian Keyanah Peters*

i. *Printed out formal parliamentary motions, we wanted a physical copy you can review, it allows the purpose type amendment and debate so we don't default to reconsidering or motion to the next question. Any specific questions I can talk about with you afterward.*

ii. *When you are talking make sure to yield time back to speaker*

1. *Poling: I don't want to cut you off so saying yield tells me you are done*

d. *Secretary Sarah Schmidt*

i. *If concern was not addressed reach out, some things we are trying to fix behind the scenes so if you have questions you can come up and ask us or fill out the feedback form again.*

ii. *Constituency report are due the 21st, do not use chat gpt as I will not accept it. Its our responsibility as senators to reach out to our constituency and this is how we do it. Funding is still up in the air.*

1. *Poling: still working on it someone else needs to spend the money for you, you can't reimbursed*

2. *Braziel: if the events need to be pushed back will reports be pushed back.*

a. *Poling: for the handful of people that impacts yes we can push that back*

b. *Please email me*

3. *Nischal: point of privilege: can we increase the temp*

a. *Poling: we can try*

iii. *Attendance: You must be here, you can have 3 unexcused absences a semester and a total of 5 per year.*

iv. *Minutes, there was some concern about minutes not going well and fear that I could not keep up. I feel like I am able to but if you have concerns, please email me.*



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1. *Braziel: will all minutes be updated on the website*
 - a. *Poling: eventually yes but I have tried to give Schmidt access but it hasn't happened. I have tried to keep up but it does take a minute.*
 - b. *Schmidt: Emailed Matt couch to get this fixed.*

V. **Committee Reports**

a. **Allocations Committee**

- i. Diaz: Met on Sunday and we only have 13,000 dollars left which isn't great fiscally but is great for students
- ii. Hickman: they requested 19,000 but only gave 8,000 we tried to cut down to spread it one club is contesting it.
- iii. Ginsberg: We are trying to be more selective on specific things so that we can give as many people possible

b. **Oversight Committee**

- i. No updates

c. **Issues Committees**

- i. Academic Affairs
 1. Met Saturday and passed resolution we will here today
- ii. Black Caucus
 1. Updated committee bylaws and have two resolutions ready for oversight.
- iii. Governmental Relations
 1. No updates
- iv. Health and Safety
 1. No updates
- v. Justice and Equity
 1. No meeting this week but met with director of justice and equity and they are excited to work with us so I encourage everyone to go. They have more students on the ground so we can hear more things.
- vi. Student Affairs
 1. No updates
- vii. Sustainability
 1. Two resolutions tonight

VI. **Old Business**



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VII. New Business

a. **56-R-27: A Resolution to Urge The Ohio State University to Fund the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center's Ice Core Facility Renovation**

- i. Price: Point of Inquiry: Can we ask questions to members of the public?
 1. You can add yourself to the list and direct it to the Parliamentarian and she can yield to them.
- ii. Hello, I come to you to introduce this resolution on behalf of the Climate Advocacy Subcommittee of our Executive Branch Sustainability Committee, urging our university to delegate funds towards the renovation of the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center's Ice Core Facility. For those of you who aren't familiar, the Byrd Polar Research Center was founded in 1960, and is the university's oldest research facility. This facility specializes in interdisciplinary research revolving around Earth Sciences and Engineering, with it being most known as the home of collected ice core records from Earth's highest and most remote ice fields. These records are used for research involving paleoclimatology and surveying climate variability. These ice cores have been housed there for about 3 decades, and research and discoveries that began there have been used to inform and impact on both the scientific community and policymaking in the realm of climate change and global warming. However, the architectural disrepair on Byrd Polar is causing difficulty in the preservation of ice cores, the conducting of research related to climatology, and the study of global warming. Frost buildup, freezers being cross contaminated with moist air and operating at overcapacity as well as problems with leakage and erosion of electrical boxes are resulting in a gradual failing of an important center of ecological research. Not only is further research compromised, as well as ice core specimens being at risk, by inefficient HVAC systems, that also make it impossible to collect and store more. With the global percentage of glaciers and ice sheets continually disappearing as a consequence of rising temperatures, the amount of time to collect viable samples to replace damaged samples or increase the amount is extremely limited. As such, repairing Byrd Polar is not only imperative for their operation, but also is imperative in preserving and studying elements related to climate change. This facility has been instrumental in providing evidence and research



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relating to global climate change, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels for decades - and the ice core samples are at the center of all that research. Requests and petitions for more funding from Byrd Polar have been attempted in the past, for over a decade in fact, with the center only being able to singularly raise \$800,000 on its own, and further requests for capital funding from the university being ignored by administration. Previous General Assemblies attempted to address this in resolution "Request More Funding from Ohio State University for the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center" (54-R-18). In spite of referring the resolution to Senate Fiscal and the Office of Research and numerous meetings taking place to negotiate, no further progress has been made, and the facility continues to lose funding and fall further into disrepair. The longer funding and rehabilitation of the center is postponed, the more dysfunctional the facility becomes and the more expensive it becomes to fix. The full official quote for complete renovation of the Ice Core Facility, including solar energy, is \$15 million. While that feels like, as is, a lofty price, our university has continuously proclaimed sustainability goals toward the research and preservation of the environment and climate - namely, goals #4 and #3, which states the University's goal to "magnify sustainability scholarly input and output, as well as increasing Ohio State's national and international reputation as a sustainability research leader", and that the University will reward sustainability scholarships by providing incentives for students, faculty and staff to make discoveries to promote and achieve sustainability, respectfully. Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center also offers scholarships to undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students to support climate research projects, as well as internship opportunities for high school students for career coaching, and renovating this would not only greatly benefit scientific pursuits from these groups, but would also pay for itself in around nine years, as a business plan combined with green bonds and environmental funding renovation would cause a large return on investment. As such, I feel The Ohio State University should grant a minimum of \$15 million for the full renovation of the Ice Core Facility, utilizing its funding from the grant offered by the Department of Energy and the West Campus Innovation Fund. As doing so would follow through on



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Sustainability goals and commitments of the university, as well as have potentially fostering nationally and internationally pertinent on climate change and its effects.

- iii. Questions;
- iv. Roy: Is there any other examples of buildings that have not seen as much funding as the Byrd.
 - 1. Khandelwal: There is a public knowledge document that shows that but the Byrd is receiving none.
 - 2. Narang :they have spent about 250 million on infrastructure including animal science
- v. Price: the NSF said that funding cant be for infrastructure as they have specific grants for facilities.
 - 1. Narang: All of their grant that OSU has won are research specific. I am not sure if they have applied but from
 - a. Poling; they have applied but not been funded
 - 2. 800,000 raised themselves
- vi. Bernard: How is it going to pay for itself?
 - 1. Narang: Not a exact breakdown but in general through the grants and graduate students they can do that. Byrd professionals say they would pay off in 9 years.
 - 2. Khandelwal: by bringing in grants and developing technology the Byrd has a solar power ice drill. So through innovation
 - a. Bernard: the money wont go back to OSU just additional funding for research
 - i. Khandelwal: No there are a ton of ways like through bringing in candidates for grad school
 - ii. Narang: You need environmental research to go to grad school
- vii. Price: what is a student publication as that number is high?
 - 1. Narang: Any OSU student who has co authored.
 - a. Are the same papers being counted multiple times
 - i. Narang: Yes if 5 people co-sponsor that's 5 publications
 - b. Nischal: is there a breakdown of how the money is funding



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- viii. Peters: need equipment and funding infrastructure and the HVAC funding to preserve and collect more samples
- ix. Narang: 10 million for HVAC to preserve the ice, 5 million for the solar to fuel it.
- x. Vaishampayan; is there a time sensitivity?
 - 1. Peters: it has been a time-sensitive issue.
 - 2. Khandelwal: As the ice cores melt it compromises the data. Some of the collection sites don't exist anymore.
- xi. Bernard: Do you know why the university is saying no in the past and is there are specific life span left?
 - 1. Khandelwal: When the resolution passed before university steering said it's not their problem and sent it to the office of research, the Byrd has applied for multiple funding resources and promised they will build a new facility but continued to put it off.
 - a. Bernard: is there a life span on the current building
 - i. Khandelwal: It has passed as the ice cores are already impacted.
- xii. Price: Specific funding sources can you breakdown the department of energy and the west campus innovation fund is for?
 - 1. Narang: This is a statement from the director and am unsure of what they were promised.
 - 2. Narang: We meant the university is using this funding for other project and they should use the money for the Byrd center.
 - a. So the grant can be used for the Byrd center?
 - i. Narang: The department of energy can get involved cause it's not research based.
- xiii. Koch: Would the money come from the grant or from the University?
 - 1. Peters: Any sustainability funding or climate related things. If we fix Byrd polar we can get more green bonds.
 - 2. Khandelwal: Capital city planning through Ohio State house and met with her boss and OSU applies for over 80 million for infrastructure and the Byrd has applied and been denied and hoping this resolution would bump it up.
 - a. Poling: they were denied by OSU not the state of ohio



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- xiv. Nischal: are there any cheaper options?
 - 1. Narang: A second opinion said no and its only increasing in cost. The facility also needs an expansion.
 - 2. Khandelwal: Its a lot of ice and energy that is needed to keep it that cold. If they could make it cheaper, they would.
- xv. Brazil: If this funding is approved how fast would the construction how long would it take?
 - 1. Khandelwal: there is no exact timeline we have been told it is a lengthy process and hope it get some funding for at least some of the ice.
 - 2. Poling; when the first one was built in the 90's it took two years.
- xvi. Price: as they have reached out for funding have they gotten feedback as to why they are not receiving it?
 - 1. Khandelwal: these grants are super competitive and there is an assumption that OSU can fund it themselves.

b. Discussion:

- i. Hickman: I think this is an awesome resolution and thank you to the public for coming. I think we need to do our part and vote yes.
- ii. Walkup: I also really like the resolution and as it's a time-sensitive thing the faster we can get funding the better. The research is extremely important to halting climate change
- iii. Nischal: After hearing everyone's thoughts and getting answers I support the resolution
- iv. Price: Can I motion to change one of the whereas clauses and fix grammar.
 - 1. Peters: Taken as friendly
 - a. Price: Can you amend the 103 publications to individual papers, it is not normally reported this way?
 - i. Khandelwal: I can probably get that number but do not have it now.
 - 1. Price: students have been named as authors on, maybe say 103 students have had there names published on papers
 - 2. Ellis: With 103 student contributions to papers.



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3. Motion is rescinded.
4. Radford: can we change the word slightly and I think this is a great resolution to get students the opportunity to do research. Students do have to pay a fee. Normally its 1 paper for the lab and multiple people normally contribute.
 - a. Taken as friendly
- b. Bernard: I share Senator Price's concern and I prefer speaker Poling's' working as it is more honest.
- c. Price: Students have been named on papers 103 times?
 - i. Poling: some research isn't papers just presentations.
 1. Roy: Motion for 5 minute recess:
 - a. Vote 18-3-1
 2. Price: Motion to amend it the wording to be "Whereas students have been named as coauthors on papers coming from the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center an average of 100 times per year since 2005, with 103 in 2023 alone; and
 - a. Accepted as friendly
2. Brazil: I think that saying 103 publications have been publicized is wrong
- v. Voting: 25-1-1
- c. 56-R-28: A Resolution to Call Upon The Ohio State University to Divest from the Fossil Fuel Industry and Invest in Climate-Friendly Organizations
 - i. Hello, I come before you to introduce this legislation calling for the university to divest from the fossil fuel industry, and to invest in climate-friendly organizations and industries. In the past 30 years enough scientific evidence has been gathered to result in a consensus that not only do humans cause ecological and atmospheric damage with unsustainable actions, but that it directly and indirectly contributes and accelerates global warming and climate change. Advocacy and calls for a more sustainable university, especially one that makes a concerted effort to invest in companies and



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industries since roughly 2014, with efforts only becoming more concentrated the further the effects of climate change and global warming escalate. The Ohio State University proclaims that its long-term plan for sustainability is to address and reduce the amount of carbon emissions to by over 55% of our 2019 emission level by 2030. However, with resolutions calling on the university to reduce or address investments in fossil fuels and unrennewable resources from the 50th, 54th, and 55th General Assembly, as well as adopting the ABTS 2022 Winter Conference resolution encouraging schools to reach and maintain sustainability goals, it feels as if our university hasn't prioritized the issue of sustainability as much as advocates would like, with the university now falling behind other universities within the Big 10 in either partial or full divestment from fossil fuels as of 2 years ago. Of these, notably, include The University of Illinois, University of Maryland, Rutgers University, University of Minnesota, and Northwestern University to name a few. Moreover, procrastination of reaching sustainability goals can also be a loss of financial opportunities, as not only has the cost of renewable energy been steadily declining over the years, as well as alleviating us from the financial risk of relying too heavily on a finite natural resource, as companies that specialize in this are subject to policy change, litigation, and public and private sector transitions that makes the continued reliance a bit of a portfolio risk. Furthermore, diversification of our investment portfolio towards renewable energy towards sustainability goals will open us up for eligibility for state green bonds, similarly to *The Team Up North*, whose divestments have granted them roughly \$300 million to assist in fulfilling and actively working towards their goals. The Ohio State University secured the University System of Ohio's first green bond designation with the successful issuance of its \$600 million in October of 2021 for committing to sustainability goals relating to the Wexner Medical Center, proving not only that committing to sustainability goals benefits the environment, but can have tangible financial benefits to the university that can further help propel long-term reduction of our contribution, indirectly or directly, to greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, I feel because our university is a land grant institution, and as such one of our primary goals is to educate and service the industrial and marginalized sectors of our society, it is our duty to



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reduce our negative carbon footprint we cause. This is especially because climate change is significantly more detrimental to those of low-income and historically socioeconomically marginalized groups, as the effects of climate-related hazards disproportionately harm these individuals, which is disheartening to students from or empathetic to these communities as the University's continued investments in the fossil fuel industry contributes to the harm being caused to both the environment and these communities. As such, the Undergraduate Student Government calls upon The Ohio State University to commit to achieve a net-zero endowment by 2050, consistent with the carbon neutrality commitment of the University, the 2015 Paris Agreement and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as completely divesting direct and indirect from the equity and debt issuances of public companies on the Carbon Underground 200 list by 2026. Finally, we recommend the University implement a policy to allocate at least 10% of its investments towards impact investments and green bonds that achieve both competitive returns and provide for positive social and environmental outcomes by 2027, and to incorporate an Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility, comprised of Ohio State faculty, staff, students, and alumni to be established by the Board of Trustees whose responsibility would be to provide advice to the Investment Committee on incorporating and implementing sustainable investment practices and accomplish sustainability goals.

1. Questions:

- a. Koch: Is there any study done about more money made in renewable or money lost in fossil fuels.
 - i. Peters: As resource dwindle they become more expensive as we are required to rebuy but renewable is decreasing in pricing and pays for itself.
- b. Bernard: Have other schools gone completely divested?
 - i. Majority of schools have committed to doing it and have no longer invested in them OSU has done neither.
 1. They have sold all investment from fossil fuels.



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- a. Sold or relocated.
 - c. Bernard: diversity and divestment are different which is the goal.
 - i. Peters: they go hand and hand and diversifying it would start the conversation and make it more appealing for the board.
 - 1. Other university have done this why would OSU not be doing it if it offered greater return?
 - a. Part of it is the university prioritizing of older investment and honestly, I do not know as it has been advocated for. The university says they are committed to sustainability but are not doing it.
 - d. Bernard: We are going to be sacrificing money correct?
 - i. More renewable resources are less risky as they are not going to be depleted.
 - 1. Why is it OSU jobs to solve climate change?
 - a. We aren't asking for them to solve it but not to contribute to it.
2. Discussion:
- a. Walkup: Piggy backing off what Parliamentary peters said about land grant institutions, one of the main contributors is Duke energy and it has a complicated relationship with native American tribes as many of their plants have consequences for north Carolina as it poisoning water sources.
 - b. Roy: Last year I heard the university say they would zero waste by 2025 and they then changed it this year to 2030. I am in full support and we need to call out the university
 - c. Ginsberg: I think this is really important to hold the university responsible but the president and vp said there has already been movement form the state government and



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its progress and us not passing it would not agitate them and not slow the change that is happening. We do not have public access to what they are investing in. Plastic bag recycling could also be something we could do. These are tangible and wouldn't hurt us unintentionally.

- d. Baughman: I helped work on her resolution we did last year and support this one. Climate change harms minorities and speeding up the process is beneficial.
- e. Bernard: I am concerned about an outright divestment from all. I support it when its to our advantage but by barring ourselves from investing in one of the most prominent sectors of the economy I think it would cost the university loses. It won't truly bring change as its negligible is we did it. Better to use that money to fund research into climate change. The clause that points out big ten schools does not clarify which ones were in the big ten.
- f. Koch: We don't know the portfolio so its very broad and can cost up money. I think it's a very broad resolution and more action resolutions would be better.
- g. Radford: In the 50th general assembly it was passed but OSU said it would cause a decrease in student scholarships and faculty. I think the resources need to go to the students. No knowing specific investments its hard to say this. I do not know how the office of Finance would change its stance.
- h. Roy: In response to Ginsberg even if progress is being made we can't afford it to be pushed to the back burner as its impacts more and more students. TO Bernard, its always an advantage to divest as climate change is impacting many students. The broadness allows them to do a range of things. They can divest in small steps and make our voices heard and if they are strategic the students do not have to suffer. As we are a large university its important to see the impact the impact our entire organization has on the whole. Let them know that its our future they are impacting.



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- i. Walkup: One of the companies that OSU gets energy from is Energy partners based in Texas. They are very controversial as they created a pipeline that runs through the tribes land that violate article 2 of the treaty, many protests have occurred and the company made 100's of arrests. The people we get energy from has done things that I can never get behind. Ill be voting yes.
- j. Price: motion to amend big 10 clauses to add comas and add other significant universities.
 - i. Accepted as friendly
- k. Price: If anyone had the knowledge that green energy would be better for the stocks then you know something know one else
- l. Schmidt: Motion to limit speaker list
 - i. Second
 - ii. Questions:
 - 1. Roy: Can we vote on this
 - a. yes
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - iv. Vote:17-4-6
- m. Price: Point of inquiry: how will that work with the queue being for discussion
 - i. We will figure that out that is why I asked out loud
- n. Vaishampayan: The business office posted a response when it was passed earlier which it focused on the extremeness of the resolution, this is of similar degree. I support the sediment but wish it was less extreme and gave the university aa longer timeline and more concrete examples.
- o. Bernard: I share the same concerns and that makes me say no. The university has said it specifically impacts students and faculty and thinks a different resolution would be better. Other ways to do this without sacrificing financial sustainability. I find there is not value to this.



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- p. Koch: I agree with Bernard I think the company concern is valid but I don't think that is what the bill concerns and it doesn't focus on the partnerships. The university cant take steps as its too broad.
- q. Diaz: What specific partnerships did you mention
 - i. Walkup: Energy transfer partner and Duke Energy
 - 1. The university doesn't partner with them to buy energy
 - 2. Walkup: In 2015 some students called for the university to divest and those were the companies they called upon to divest from.
 - 3. Vaishampayan (Point of parliamentary procedure) : does limiting speaker list limit motions?
 - a. No we can still raise you hand and motion
 - ii. Roy; This resolution says that us as a body representing students would like the university to divest from fossil fuel companies as we as students are facing the consequences. What if they didn't need the construction to prevent flooding. A lot can impact the university due to climate change and it might not happen overnight and us making a statement shows we care, and they should take it more seriously.
 - iii. Baughman: this is an encouragement of the university to stop doing something that most students don't agree with. Last year we did a poll and majority of students supported it. Climate change is getting to the point of irreversibility and it's a global issue. Even if we lose money it's worth it. Even if we lose a few scholarships its worth it.
- 3. Vote: 13-8-5
- d. **56-R-29: A Resolution to Urge the University to Implement University-Wide Flexibility in Attendance**



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- i. Joyce: I am speaking to urge you all to vote in favor of the resolution. Attendance is not a way to judge the competency of course materials. There are many ways people might not be able to attend class that are beyond their control. I don't think they should be penalized. We do have SLDS accommodation and they are not accessible to everyone and require pre-knowledge and documentation. This would remove attendance-based barriers.
 - 1. Questions
 - a. Radford: What would be a flex plan be and why some students can't access it?
 - i. There are currently 3 ADM plans. 1 off flexibility as needed for recently stabled conditions who may need accommodation. These apply for assignments and exams as well. When you register with SLDS you discuss and receive accommodations. You get a letter you can send your professors that has a plan. 1 off does not have a plan and you need to reach out to SLDS after the fact and then make a plan. Intermittent flex plan. It's one to two days at a time. You create a plan beforehand. The remain-in-class plan is for an extended period. You work with professors and make sure you can complete the objective over a long term. I am suggesting a plan that focuses solely on attendance. The aim is not to change SLDS but rather to not have your attendance impact your grade. The current plan places the burden on the student but this would remove it.
 - 1. Is this the general concession that this would be better or would they prefer advocating on their own?
 - a. In general, there is an understanding that not having to worry about missing class would be great.
 - b. Nischal: How do verify students are sick?



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- i. This isn't just for disabled students it would be for all students. There isn't a verification. It's to reduce the need for verification.
- c. Bernard: Do you see value in attending class?
 - i. I think the value of going to class is what you gain from going to class, the lecture and conversations. Of course, there is value in going to class.
 - 1. Do you see consequences from getting rid one of the main incentives?
 - a. We as college students are no longer subject to truancy laws we are paying to attend these classes. If an individual has deemed its more important to be somewhere else its their choice to make. If faculty is concerned about low attendance that is on them for not educating properly.
 - i. Two weeks ago I had a miss class for election day and we had to except labs, is there any shot this doesn't get thrown away by the administration.
 - ii. I can't speak on what they would do with it.
- d. Koch: you are calling on the university to not allow professors to grade you on attendance?
 - i. Specifically, I'm asking them to have a limitation on the degree to which it can be used for their grade.
- e. Schmidt: I'm a philosophy student and some classes do not have graded assignments is all on discussion how to you suggest they handle this?
 - i. I had a class a semester or two ago and it was discussion-based based and it graded discussion contributions and if you got them all out of the way at



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the top half of the class you could see them not show up again. It calls for more creativity.

1. You are saying it's okay for them to show up once and speak a lot but then never show up again.
 - a. I would think that's not a well-designed class. Whatever is the agreed upon method.
- f. Nischal: Some of them are discussion based and have no assignments, but many have group work how would you solve them not showing up that day.
 1. In a properly designed course, it would not be a problem. If that person is not showing up that shouldn't impact their grade.
 - a. Who will take responsibility if they do poorly on exams if they never showed up. How do you solve that.
 - i. I believe you answered that. It the students responsibility. I am not advocating for skipping class.
 - g. Alford: does this include labs.
 - i. yes
 - h. Vaishampayan: In a single words does it prohibit students from going to class?
 - i. No
 2. Discussion:
 - a. Ginsberg: students have different needs and things come up, its not fair to ask students to know everything. I have SLDS which gives me double access and sometimes students don't respond to that. Sometimes I get accommodations but other times I don't. I think the character of its good. We ae all adults and professors should try harder to accommodate. I think this is a good resolution



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- b. Nischal: I don't think its good as it would harm the student body. Instructors are human and letting them know is often easy and we have unexcused absences. Professors are good at solving these resolutions.
- c. Roy: Many students can't email to all students, I am deaf and I had a professor wasn't the most strong in expressing ideas vocally and the lecture slides were more helpful, it had mandatory attendance. Attendance was the thing deciding my grade. I learned way better on what was posted. I still got points for showing up even though I wasn't learning. Tons of situations we they can learn about without being in person. I think the resolution is extremely important and allows conversations between USG and the administration. For labs you need to do the work to get the grade. With the diverse ways of learning, I don't think attendance is what should impact your grade.
- d. Price: I think this is the way the school is heading. OSUMS already has an attendance option. Another choice to watch online or are sick that day. There are components of learning that can't be attendance optional.
- e. Diaz: Back in CCP I had a wide range of attendance options. I had a 500-person class that was a discussion. The class bonus for attending class. In my accounting discussion class and, 80 percent of the grade was showing up. I can't tell my boss that I can't show up isn't acceptable. It's to trust the responsible students who pay to make that choice. Students can also struggle to drive there.
- f. Schmidt: I am really torn on this as in some ways I see it we are college students and should be responsible enough to make that choice but I do think it will negatively impact discussion based classes.
- g. Baughman: I was talking to a friend about this and it is something that needs to happen. I would love to co sponsor. It remove a lot of barriers to attend class. Maybe I cant afford



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a doctors note and it encourages sick people to attend class. Some professors are rude when asked about not being able to attend class. Some classes are not worth showing up to and should not be mandated. It only hurts those who are skipping class.

- i. Joyce: no to being a co-sponsor
- h. Leedy: I want to emphasize there are more used then have been stated. There is a privacy aspect about disclosing private matter, even religious or disability privacy. One of my accommodations I 1.5 times absences and one of my professors has O so I get zero. Anyone can become disabled at any time, think about your constituency.
- i. Bernard: I went into debate thinking I was a firm no but I am thinking more about what Secretary Schmidt is thinking I see the value but I wish it was more narrow in its ask. Going to class adds values and attendance drops off at the end. I recognize the self-harm aspect but there is another value in attending class.
- j. Nischal: Students are paying thousands of dollars and going to class offers connections and interactions. I know I can learn on my own but I don't have anyone helping me.
- k. Braziel: I think this is a really good resolution and the choices of certain students will not impact other students and everything in our lives will be based on choices. Going forward teachers do need to understand that with that idea in mind. Some students may be there and others wont. I don't see a difference between discussion and attendance
- l. Braziel: motion to move to previous questions:
 - i. Second
 - ii. 19-3-2
- 3. Nischal: Secret ballot
- ii. Vote: 18-3-2

VIII. Announcements



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- a. Poling: Let us know what you think of the new stuff.
- IX. Adjournment: 9:42**