



Sophie Chang
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48th General Assembly
Spring 2016, Session 24
March 23, 2016

Note from the Secretary: This has evidently been a contentious issue, and the 47 members of the public who spoke and the greater number of people who came to observe our session in the Great Hall Meeting Room and subsequently the Cartoon Room in the Ohio Union illustrates that fact. Please keep in mind that this session lasted for 5.5 hours, from 6:30 pm to midnight, when the Ohio Union closed. Through the editing and accumulation process, I have inserted “Notes from the Secretary” into certain areas where I feel it is appropriate to provide the public with more information on why a certain measure or motion was passed, or why a certain vote worked that way. The Undergraduate Student Government, being a sort of government, is bureaucratic and will always remain bureaucratic to some degree. However, it would be a disservice to public members not involved in USG or not fully understanding of the process, and to USG members and representatives, if some bureaucratic procedures or standing rules were misunderstood as an intentional action taken by the Undergraduate Student Government to stifle student, minority, or interest group voice. I urge all readers of these minutes to also read the resolution that was presented, discussed, and voted on (48-R-43 https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_3232016_1734555.pdf) and the minutes from the 23rd Session of the General Assembly (https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_3142016_23931872.pdf) for context. I think it can serve to clarify many things. If not, please feel free to email me at the email listed above or contact me via social media. It is not a custom for me to write a message before the recorded minutes, but I felt this was necessary to maintain fairness and minimize misunderstanding for all parties. If you feel that your statement was mischaracterized in any way, please contact me via the above methods as well. *The names of your student representatives can be found at* https://usg.osu.edu/generalassembly/meet_the_general_assembly.

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
- c. Swearing in of Alternates: If you are an alternate, please indicate that you’re present and let me know that you’re an alternate. At the end of the session, please come up and give me your email address. Otherwise you can email me at chang.1310@osu.edu with your name, your OSU email, and the senator for which you’re alternating.
 - i. Michael Branum.6 for Megan Howard
 - ii. Michael Frank.457 for Miranda Miser
 - iii. Win Adissem.2 for Ryan Calvin
 - iv. Tyler Martin.3013 for Emily Martin
 - v. Micha Kerbel.3 for Mary Honaker
 - vi. Carly Hooker.199 for Daniel Marchese at 8:40 pm
 - vii. Maria Vargo.140 for Varsha Challapally at 9 pm
 - viii. Yousef Yacoub.11 for Manasa Punugu at 9:40 pm
 - ix. Micha Kerbel.3 for Chris Waidelich at 10:01 pm
 - x. Michael Frank.457 for Michael Branum.6 for Megan Howard at 10:34 pm.
 - xi. Carla Gracia.8 for Paige Bennett at 10:35 pm.



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d. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for Public

- a. *Carly Hooker.199*: My name is Carly Hooker and I am a first-year student in Public Affairs. I live in Smith-Steeb Hall on South Campus. Resolution 48-R-43, if passed, will have critical implications on our community. It has already caused divisive language damaging to students and it causes extreme discomfort to those students striving to feel safe on campus. The word divisive, in this case, refers to that which tends to cause disagreement or hostility between any people. The inherent nature of bill has ties to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement condemned by our state and our country. Our congressional representatives on the state and federal level have urged our General Assembly representatives tonight to vote against this resolution, which promotes anti-Israel and anti-American sentiments, and which is pro-BDS movement. The word divestment itself demonizes Israel. It has a direct connection to the BDS movement across college campuses, and contains parallel language in attacking the alleged illegal occupation. The Committee for Justice in Palestine and the BDS movement come down with the intention to delegitimize Israel's right to exist as a nation-state.
- b. Motion to eliminate questions for speakers FAILED.**
- c. Motion to extend speaking time to 5 minutes FAILED.**
- d. Motion to extend speaking time to 3 minutes PASSED.**
- e. *Gary Sukienik.1*: Hi, I'm a pre-dental student and I live off campus. I am involved in the OSU Pre-Dental Club, Greek life, Primary Care Progress, and I am a teaching assistant for the chemistry department here at Ohio State. I'm coming here to tell you why you should vote no on this bill. I spent 10 months studying abroad in Jerusalem and I've had so many experiences in Israel. I believe Israel is a place of home. I stayed near the border of East Jerusalem across from a predominantly Palestinian-Arab neighborhood. I played daily with people from all walks of life. However, terrorists have fired more than 11,000 rockets into all of Israel. When abroad, I constantly lived with the threat of rocket attacks and had to be prepared to react. On multiple occasions, an M-75 rocket was sent from the Gaza Strip, once during Sabbath. I feared for my life. Another time, I was playing basketball with my Arab and Palestinian friends, and the code red sirens went off again. I had to run into the recreation center's shelter, when I heard another M-75 rocket explode. An iron dome nearby deflected the rocket. No one knows whether it was directed towards a Jewish or Palestinian home, but I'm thankful to be alive today. As a pre-dental student, I believe this resolution is brought to the floor at the sponsor's own volition. He has failed to fulfill his responsibility as the Dentistry Senator by not reaching out to dental students. The next speaker will read you a letter also describing the reasons why you should vote no on 48-R-43. I fully believe in human rights, but this resolution follows the framework of the BDS movement, and disguises itself as a human rights resolution that creates division among campuses and reduces dialogue. The first step in trying to combat human rights violations is getting transparency from the university.



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- i. *Buss*: First of all, thanks for coming here. My concern here is about the letter with signatures. Who provided these signatures? Are they Dentistry constituents? Could you tell me about how you collected them?
 - ii. *Sukienik.1*: I collected them with a friend. The signatures are from students in the dental school and undergraduate pre-dental students. All of them are dental students. I went to the Dentistry building over the past two days collecting signatures.
 - iii. *Frank*: When you say dental students are you referring to undergraduate or graduate students? (*Notes from the Secretary: the General Assembly represents only constituents of the undergraduate student body, as we are part of a branch of the Undergraduate Student Government.*)
 - iv. *Sukienik.1*: A combination of both.
 - v. *Kaczmarek*: What is the proportion of undergraduate to graduate students?
 - vi. *Sukienik.1*: About 5/8 are graduate students and 3/8 are undergraduate students.
 - vii. Motion to close questions on this speaker FAILED.**
 - viii. *Mubarak*: Have you or any pre-dental students contacted me?
 - ix. *Sukienik.1*: No, but I have told people to reach out to you.
 - x. *Mubarak*: Just so you know, I did not get any email from my constituents.
 - xi. *Ferzacca*: What is the size of the dental school?
 - xii. *Sukienik.1*: About 110 students per class.
- f. *Ilana Kramer.423*: I'm a psychology major and a pre-dental student, and I will be reading a letter on behalf of Senator Mubarak's constituents. "Dear Members of the General Assembly, this letter is being presented to you from the undersigned Dental and Pre-Dental students here at The Ohio State University. We believe that Sami Mubarak has brought this resolution, Resolution 48-R-43, to the floor under his own volition without the endorsement of his constituents. He was not voted in by any of us but was assigned as our senator. According to Article I, subsection "The General Assembly" sub-subsections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government of The Ohio State University, "2. Senators of the General Assembly shall serve as the chief spokespersons and representatives for the undergraduates of their constituencies. 3. Senators of the General Assembly shall remain accessible and accountable to their constituents." Senator Mubarak has failed to act in good faith as a chief spokesperson and representative of his constituency by failing to be accessible and accountable to his constituency. Although the sponsor claims that resolution 48-R-43 is not charged at a specific nationality or people, this resolution mirrors the fundamental principles that the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) movement campaigns. This movement is an anti-Israel movement based on anti-Semitism. The call for divestment from the three companies outlined in the resolution specifically target Israel and not human rights violations as a whole. Although we support the withdrawal of Ohio State's investments in corporations complicit in human rights violations, the resolution presented here is flawed for many reasons and additionally fails



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to properly identify all corporations which violate human rights through the world. For this reason, we urge the you to vote no on resolution 48-R-43.” BDS disguises itself as a human rights resolution. This inhibits constructive dialogue among diverse parties seeking a solution to this complex issue. We should be asking our university for its current investments and transparency in those investments, not just in Israel, but across the world. I urge you to vote no on 48-R-43.

- i. *Mubarak*: Have you emailed me?
 - ii. *Kramer.423*: Also no.
 - iii. *Notes from the Secretary*: At the beginning of the 48th General Assembly term, the Dentistry seat was vacant. Vice President Abby Waidelich released applications for the Dentistry seat and submitted applications were reviewed by the General Assembly Steering Committee. Eligible applicants were then brought to the General Assembly floor for review. Senator Mubarak was confirmed by the General Assembly after his review in the Fall Semester of 2015. The General Assembly Vacancy Procedures can be found in Article XIII of the [Standing Rules of the General Assembly](#) (https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_4112015_18121428.pdf) which can be found on the USG website.
- g. *Mahmoud Abdel-Rasoul.1*: I started out here as undergraduate student in 2001 and I have been a member of the OSU community for 15 years now. This is not a personal story about administrative detentions or the population of Gaza on a diet or about the 4-5 year old child who just had his life’s dream met by meeting Cristiano Ronaldo after he had his parents burned alive. No. No personal stories. I’m going to tell you why you guys matter and why you’ve been receiving letters from United States congresspeople. I’m not sure if they have contacted you before on a resolution, but I doubt it. Has anyone else received correspondence on this or what USG has voted on? Yes? Ok. Never mind. Luckily for you, running for USG senate doesn’t cost money. As soon as it costs money, when you’re running to be the future leaders of America, it will then cost money. Once it starts costing money, then influence starts playing a role. You just saw the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Conference. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump and the first Jewish candidate to win a campaign went to AIPAC. Sanders is the first U.S. candidate to mention justice for Palestinians. Everyone talks about Israel’s right to exist, but no one talk’s about Palestine’s right to exist, the Palestinian water shortage, etc. But you haven’t been influenced yet. You haven’t had the opportunity to go on trade missions. If you have gone on trade missions to Israel, and had people tell them to see what’s going on there, that is the equivalent of KFC taking you to a chicken farm to see how they treat their chickens. I urge you to read about what Sanders has said about Palestinians. Both parties and the one issue they agree on. It’s ironic. They all paraded to AIPAC to pledge allegiance to a foreign government.
- i. *Weisman*: You mentioned that there’s never any talk about Palestinians’ right to exist. Can you point to anywhere in the resolution that points to Israeli lives lost in conflict?



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- ii. *Abdel-Rasoul.1*: I cannot, but the United States is supposed to be a purveyor of peace who's supposed to be negotiating peace between Israel and Palestine and all candidates pledge allegiance to one side. Donald Trump pretends to be neutral and gets attacked for doing so and trying to broker agreements between people.
- iii. *Weisman*: So if we're being neutral here, how is this legislation that only mentions Palestinian lives lost is neutral for us?
- iv. *Abdel-Rasoul.1*: Sometimes people get carried away with the power they have. 17 and 18 year-olds are conscripted into the Israeli army and don't recognize the harm done by conscripting 17-18 year-olds. Maybe it's Israel's best interest for the United States to push them along and promote better Palestinian rights.
- v. *Cramer*: Is the speaker aware of anyone in this room who is a foreign policy expert? (*Point of order*). Withdrawn.
- vi. *Kerbel*: How does the U.S. not support Palestinian human rights and how have none of the candidates have supported them? Are you aware that in 1993, former President Bill Clinton had Yitzhak Rabin and Mahmoud Abbas shake hands on White House lawn trying to broker peace treaty on both sides?
- vii. *Abdel-Rasoul.1*: John Kerry and Hillary Clinton went to Israel for a settlement freeze, but both were attacked by Israel's settlement buildings announced during their visit. I mentioned Palestinian human rights. I'm a dual citizen of US and Palestine but the U.S. State Department doesn't assist Palestinian citizens who have U.S. citizenship if they have issues with Israel. I'm pointing out that not only does the U.S. not necessarily support us, the public policy does not support Pale human rights in the way that it would attempt to support human rights in Cuba, doesn't not support right of US citizens if they have Palestinian background and Israel discriminates against them.
- h. *Abigail Newburger.4*: I'm a fourth-year Jewish Studies major and I live off campus. This conversation has to be discussed longer than just tonight. It's more complicated than its portrayal. There need to be free-flowing ideas and we have to look deeper into this before rushing this decision. It's horrific for us to strip away from them. I urge the chamber to vote no and look deeper. If we hope for peace we can't take a step back by accepting this. We must take a step forward and look ahead. I want to see Palestinians and Israelis going to football games together and invest in peace. I want to see OSU students build programs where Palestinian and Israeli youth can come together for a common cause. I want to see everyone in this room at one long table together. Imagine an End Hate OSU campaign that brings students together to discuss peaceful dialogue. It takes Israeli and Palestinian kids to make dialogue natural and productive to inspire future leaders and peacemakers of our time. We should invest in organizations that provide these services regardless of who they are. I want you to see the future is bright by doing this. But the future is dark if we pick a side. We should not. Join me in protecting OSU students. Join me in protecting peace and unity. Let's come together.



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- i. *Bodey*: The speaker mentioned camps and other opportunities for students to talk to each other. Could the speaker please elaborate on further ideas she may have to bring OSU students together from both sides of the conflict? I would also ask the speaker to contact me in writing, but I want to hear them now.
- ii. *Newburger.4*: Of course, I'd be happy to send these to you. I think we should encourage peaceful dialogue through open forum rather than speakers where people attack the speaker or other students. There should be free and respectful dialogue with everyone in this room.
- i. *Hannah Pierce.409*: I'm a fourth-year political science and strategic communications major and I live off campus. I am involved in my sorority and Buckeye Pac. I am a young progressive Democrat. I have always wanted to change the world and make it better, and that has always been my goal in life. All I wanted since I was little to save the world. I am a strong progressive young Democrat. My view changed in 2001 on 9/11 as a first grader in NYC. Security increased everywhere and the overwhelming police presence at my synagogue increased. My best friend in the first grade was a Muslim. How could they who emigrated from India be so discriminated against? That changed my worldview. I saw injustice everywhere and saw that desire to fight against inequality and mistreatment. There was inequality and mistreatment of women. I admire Israel because it has the best track record in the Middle East for treatment of women. Israel was the first to elect a woman president. It's number one for safe abortions. I fight for rights on campus, but I don't see this as a way to fight for social justice. Divesting creates divisive image that doesn't allow for dialogue. With divestment, you won't hear it period. 500 Palestinians lost their jobs more than 10 times in the area. Without that SodaStream income employing individuals, they are no longer able to provide for their families. And that's due to pressure from the BDS movement. I want to help the Palestinian people. I want them to have healthcare and food, and assistance in healthcare. I believe in a strong Palestinian state and Israeli state. I am a young progressive female and I believe the key to human rights and democracy is through Israel. We make strides when we work with her and not divest. Vote no on this resolution.
- j. *Juliana Wishne.1*: I am a political science major and I live off campus. I am Co-President at OSU Hillel. This summer I will be working at an immigration law firm specializing in immigration. I am reading a quote from the Torah, "Tzedek, tzedek tirdorf," which states "Justice, justice shall you pursue." What is just and fair is unequivocal support to Israel and human rights. Part of the work we do in Hillel is to serve as a liaison and spread knowledge of the work we do. We have a multitude of events to promote discourse, including a concert with Matisyahu and Palestinian artist Nadim Azzam next Monday at 8pm. Events like this are open to conversations in a setting of peace and understanding. We foster that environment within Hillel. I am a liberal Jew who is critical of Israel as well, but if we want to get to the heart of the issue of human rights issues, this is not it. I want to work on a



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dinner and dialogue with End Hate OSU to promote this. I urge you to vote no or abstain from voting.

- k. *Noah Portman.19*: I am a third year in Environmental Engineering. This is my first time speaking to you all, and it's great to share personal insights and listen to so many unique and diverse opinions. I am a Jew and I was born a Jew. I have a strong connection with land of Israel. The last time I was there, a few months ago, I was in the southern capital of Barysheva in a study abroad program on sustainable development of water in the Middle East. There, I discovered that Israel is at the forefront of science and technology. Israel can serve as a model for the world's incoming water calamities. Israel is made up of 60% desert, yet it has solved water scarcity problems and has exceeded abundance. I did research in state-of-the-art labs where technology and solar cell development has prepared us for an uncertain environmental future. There are hundreds of faculty and staff, with Arab Muslims and Jews working together. Abstaining from voting tonight is not sign of weakness but a sign of lack of information. A resolution should not destroy relationships with each other. We must invest in each other. This does not need to wait another generation but must begin today. Choose life and choose to foster connections at home. In order to enhance life everywhere for everyone, we must recognize our own wrongdoings. I believe that the need for joint empathy and collaboration is far greater to ensure the well-being and collaboration of both nations for many years.
- i. *Mubarak*: Thank you for speaking about your love for Israel and the science and technology advancements. Are you aware that this resolution supports divestment from companies and not from Israel?
 - ii. *Portman.19*: Yes, but I'm speaking to progress in Israel in science and technology.
 - iii. *Mubarak*: Do you understand that this is not divesting from Israel, but from these companies?
 - iv. *Portman.19*: Understood.
- l. *Anani.3*: I am a junior in high school. For my whole life, I've been a Buckeye. Attending OSU was always a life goal and something I'm looking forward to. However, with recent developments, I find myself facing a moral dilemma as a Palestinian and proud American. Many friends and family have been driven from their homes, demolished by Caterpillar bulldozers and HP and G4S. With much difficulty and pain, I decided that I can't contribute a single penny of my tuition dependent on the destruction of my own family, as a citizen of my country or as a member of the human race. Don't make the mistake that OSU did with South Africa. Be at the forefront of progress. We're not asking for anything radical or pro-Palestinian. We are asking to maintain the neutrality that it pledges. The UN and State Department have declared that settlements within the West Bank are illegal. To aid them is immoral. Ask OSU to divest from these that contribute to human rights violations. Contribute to justice and vote yes on this.
- i. *Kerbel*: The speaker mentioned not making the same mistake that OSU made with South Africa. Is the speaker saying that Israel is equivalent to South Africa?



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- ii. *Anani.3*: I am not attacking a nation. South Africa is home to many human rights violations. The existence of human rights violations in West Bank is not a question it's a fact. There are companies that are assisting in violation of human rights. OSU continued to invest in the South African apartheid which violated human rights. OSU should not continue to invest in another violation of human rights.
- m. 2 minute speaking limit REINSTATED.**
- n. *Nima Dahir.13*: I am a senior studying math and economics. I'd like to shift our conversation away from logistics and onto the discussion of moral responsibility. This is a central question of value. Short-term loss for corporations and potentially for OSU students, Israeli and Palestinian workers. Let's take a step back and we heard about Apartheid in South Africa. We saw that they made little progress in Apartheid for almost a decade for it to be effective in regime change. Those administrators used the same methods of saying no—political backlash and the desire to remain neutral. In the question of justice there is no such thing as neutrality. Ohio State's motto is the Latin phrase *Disciplina in civitatem*, meaning education through citizenship. We should take pride in these words and use our voices and our votes to stand always on the side of justice. Let's bring action into existence. Voting for this means honoring Palestinian lives and our great school's motto. A lot of students heard late 80s and 90s in state against Apartheid in South Africa. Do the right thing and vote yes on this resolution. Represent the voices of so many students at the University.
- o. Motion to suspend questions for the rest of open forum FAILED.**
- p. *Basel Anani.2*: I'm going to make a few common sense points. First off, OSU is an educational institution. There are Palestinians, Israelis, African Americans, and whites. All races. However, OSU is invested in 3 companies. What does that investment mean? We generally seek profit but also a bit of support for the actions of that company basically. What we see here through Caterpillar assisting in the expansion of settlements in Israel, G4S in biometric identification systems, what we see is OSU is taking a side in this conflict. By divesting the money from these companies what we are aiming to do is support Palestinians or going against Israel, however that point can't be further from the truth. OSU as an institution that shows favor for one end of the spectrum or another. Another point is the morality issue. As we know all around the West Bank are the multitude of human rights violations. I've been to Palestine myself. A lot of people can't get a clean cup of water from faucet. They can't farm on their own land and don't have freedom of motion. All of these are human rights violations.
- q. *Connie Hammond.175*: I am a graduate of OSU, but I am not a student right now. I am here to speak on behalf of the Jewish Voice for Peace Central Ohio chapter. I am speaking with the advice and consent of our local and national leadership. Our members and national JVP stand shoulder to shoulder with OSU Divest. This is a response to the calls for Palestinian civil society and churches of Israel and Palestine because they contribute to and profit from the illegal occupation of Palestinians, expansion of settlements, and blatant disregard for



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human rights. A member of the public stated that divestment movement like OSU Divest is not anti-Semitic but is completely aligned with Jewish values. End systematic and human rights violations, an intolerable reality under Israeli government control. Act in nonviolent solidarity with the people of Palestine. As JVP members, we ask that you act and vote yes. Divesting from companies can positively transform and put an end to, counter, and start a foundation for just and lasting peace. Thank you for looking at this difficult issue.

- r. *Yasmeeen Ramahi.3*: I am a second-year strategic communications major and I come here not as a Palestinian nor as an Arab but rather as a human. The companies we're asking OSU to divest from are ones that are breaking international law. I plead for humanity and basic morals. Take it as an ethical not political movement. OSU has a hand in atrocities and violations of human rights. This is not pro-Palestine or pro-Israel, but pro-human-life. Place OSU in a neutral stance by divesting. Please vote yes to divest.
- s. *Amber Hussain.99*: I am not here to make a comment on either side's actions, but on this process by USG. I hope that you've taken these weeks to think about the last USG meeting, look at the resolution, look at other schools who have succeeded, and formulate a logical standpoint on the issue. Two weeks ago, I saw some senators prematurely stating discomfort and unease with passing such a divisive issue. There's already division. One side is unheard, ignored, and criminalized. They're finally speaking out and they're being criminalized. It's easy to be patient when the issue isn't personal.
- t. *Alexa Rittenberg.2*: The word divestment itself is demonizing Israel, and has a connection to BDS. It targets Israel's alleged illegal occupation. BDS and the resolution come down to a core problem of delegitimizing Israel's right to exist as a nation-state. It's no secret that divestment legislation has been passed through student governments that have been seemingly unpointed. They harm the campus climate. BDS resolutions have passed and many students feel uncomfortable speaking out as it threatens their security. Statements made by OSU Divest show anti-Semitism from other universities across the country as well. Peace in the Middle East will not be made by organizations who seek to undermine and delegitimize. The path to peace will not be made by narrow, targeted things or by undermining administrative authority and not creating constructive dialogue. Similarly I have a packet here with hundreds of signatures from undergraduates who do not support this resolution and want you guys to vote no.
- i. *Singh*: Does the speaker have copies of that packet to be distributed?
 - ii. *Rittenberg.2*: I do. I have copies for everybody.
 - iii. *Belfiglio*: I just want to verify that all the signatures are from undergraduate students. How did you collect them?
 - iv. *Rittenberg.2*: All of them are undergraduate signatures and they were collected online for students who cannot be here tonight.
 - v. *Mubarak*: Where on the CJP website did you find that information?
 - vi. *Rittenberg.2*: I cannot answer that. Actually, can I answer? It was the fact page on their website.



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- vii. *Frank*: Do you know how many signatures are on this document?
- viii. *Rittenberg.2*: About 400.
- u. *Lorette Alami.2*: I am a third year majoring in Public Health. I urge support for this resolution. As a Christian minority and Palestinian, I am mad that it is made into a religious matter. This is not Jews versus Muslims. It's a matter of justice. It exaggerated and vilified the meaning of divestment. Divestment is simple. It's the opposite of investment. Israel directly builds settlements in the West Bank and I'm concerned of ancestors' homeland. There is demolition of houses from Caterpillar bulldozers. Senators claim that they have to talk to their constituents first as if none of us in the room are their constituents. A lot do support divestment.
- v. *Brittany Kahn.93*: I'm a 4th year studying Public Affairs. I am also the Resident Manager in Baker Hall East. If there's one thing I've learned in my four years working for Residence Life here at Ohio State, it's the importance of inclusive environments. I have seen the difference it can make when someone feels included. I've had the privilege to see students of African heritage feel more welcome and embraced in my building because we did a Kwanzaa program. I've seen LGBTQ students feel comfortable enough to come out and share their identity at a residence life program about LGBTQ issues before they've shared their identities with their own families and friends. I've watched international students who struggled to navigate their new environment grow into active community members who take joy in sharing their cultures with their new on-campus family. This is all to say that Residence Life, and this university in general, work best when efforts are made to be as inclusive as possible. Divestment is the antithesis of inclusion. Many of the students who are advocating for this anti-Israel resolution want you to believe that Divestment is in the best interest for the Ohio State community. They will tell you stories about how they have suffered as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and I am by no means denouncing the legitimacy of their personal narratives. However, to the people who will be voting tonight, I ask you, do you really think that this anti-Semitic resolution is the best thing for Ohio State? And yes, I used the word anti-Semitic. This resolution is racist against the Jewish people. There are many people who want you to believe that this is an issue about human rights, and it has nothing to do with Judaism or anti-Semitism. To them I say, you do not get to define what anti-Semitism is. I am a Jewish person, and it is both my right and my responsibility to speak out when there is an attempt to delegitimize and target the Jewish nation. This resolution targets a Jewish state. The *only* Jewish state. I have the right to say when my Jewish peers and I are experiencing a non-inclusive environment. You do not get to speak for my experiences, write my own history, or dictate my own language. Those of you who disagree with me, those of you in this room who have the nerve to roll their eyes when the term anti-Semitism is mentioned, I ask you, what gives you the right to define what anti-Semitism is? What gives you the right to feel more entitled to my story than I am? I would never attempt to speak for another community. I would never attempt to speak on behalf of the black community, or say what is or is not racist against people of color,



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because I am not a person of color. So don't do the same to me and the entire Jewish community by trying to say what is or isn't anti-Semitic. Allow me to tell another story: last year, at UCLA, a second-year student named Rachel Beyda was at a meeting confirming her nomination to her school's Judicial Board, an entity that operates similar to Ohio State's Judicial Panel. In the middle of the meeting, a member of their student council asked Ms. Beyda, "Given that you are a Jewish student and very active in the Jewish community, how do you see yourself being able to maintain an unbiased view?" Imagine being Rachel in that situation. Imagine being told, in the middle of your attempt to join a prestigious and influential organization at a public university, that your religious and cultural identity is a conflict of interest that goes against your ability to be unbiased. And no, none of the other candidates in this process were asked questions like this. Eventually, Ms. Beyda was nominated to the Board and the elected student who asked the offensive question issued a public apology, but the waves of anti-Semitism were felt across the country. I tell this story tonight because I do not want Ohio State to be like UCLA. I do not want us to get to a place where students in elected positions feel that it is okay to question the loyalties and leadership qualities of Jewish students because of contentious situations regarding divestment resolutions. The only way to protect our students from this scary future is to firmly reject any attempts to target the Jewish state. Those of you who will be voting tonight, I ask you think about why Israel in particular is being targeted. It is not random. It is not for the good of the world as a whole. As senators for the Undergraduate Student Government, you each have an obligation to represent your constituents and work to make sure that Ohio State is an inclusive space. Tonight, when I go back to the residence hall that I put my heart and soul into making sure is a welcoming and inclusive space, I truly hope I can go to bed knowing that this resolution that is racist against the Jewish people was turned down. It is inappropriate for USG to pass an anti-Semitic resolution, and bad for this university as a whole.

- i. *Mubarak*: Thank you for expressing your concerns. Was there a particular clause in resolution that made you uncomfortable?
- ii. *Kahn.93*: The fact that it's targeting Israel is my basis for the claim.
- iii. *Mubarak*: Where in the resolution does it do so?
- iv. *Kahn.93*: The entire resolution is targeted at companies that do business in Israel.
- w. *Kyle Bader.79*: I am a freshman on South campus and I'm from Toledo, OH. BDS did come to University of Toledo. I was asked to come represent even though I wasn't a student at Toledo to see how things went down. I don't want to share my personal BDS opinion but want to speak on fact. Student justices ruled that it broke the constitution and the resolution never made to debate or vote. BDS then brought in an outside lawyer to threaten the student government, then it went to the floor and passed. It was then voted down by the Board of Trustees and brought up as a referendum at a third meeting and failed. Now, there were 3 meetings related to the USG and BDS resolution. Something that happened in third meeting was that the USG president was not present and he did not run this meeting.



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Why? He was that stressed out and had that much anxiety from this resolution. It was causing him that much stress. He decided he did not want to run this third meeting and thus the Vice President ran it. I was there for all three meetings. I believe, along with city councilmen that were there, and former Toledo Mayer who was the former USG President and spoke that the most productive way to counter this divisiveness on campus is to vote no on this resolution. There should be a peaceful discussion on this heated and political issue.

- x. *Ravleen Kaur.107*: I am a Public Affairs student who lives off campus. Last year, OSU Divest proposed an initiative to support divestment that garnered over 3,000 student signatures. It wasn't put on the ballot. And some people have said Jewish students may feel unsafe after passing of this resolution, but it's okay for a USG member to threaten 4 times to call police?
- y. *Waidelich*: Please do not attack members of the chamber and keep comments relevant to the discussion.
- z. *Kaur.107*: I'm just saying the police was called on us for no reason. Racial groups and other minorities face the same fears on campus and we also face microaggressions. We feel unsafe because families in Palestine feel unsafe. Divestment targets these companies and doesn't stand for hate. I know what it's like to feel hate as a Sikh person and never want to garner hate.
 - i. *Kerbel*: The speaker is saying that things in West Bank is a genocide compared to Sikh genocide that happened?
 - ii. *Kaur.107*: I mentioned Sikh genocide as an example of hate, although many people would argue that there is.
- aa. *(Note from the Secretary: During the 23rd Session of the General Assembly two weeks prior to the 24th Session, the Parliamentarian reminded members of the public that part of his job description as Parliamentarian is calling the police should discussion get out of hand or should there be excessive disruption in the chamber. We apologize as the General Assembly if this seemed like we were calling the police, or were going to call the police because there was abnormal public turnout in the chamber. As representatives, we like to see students involved and appreciate when members of the public come to speak. However, we neither expect, nor do we presume, that all members of the public review the [Standing Rules of the General Assembly \(https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_4112015_18121428.pdf\)](https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_4112015_18121428.pdf) which or are immediately familiar with how the chamber operates. Therefore, at sessions with large turnouts, it is the duty of the Parliamentarian to review the rules of the chamber and speak on his duties.)*
- bb. *Deena Schwen.3*: I am an OSU student. I want to stress many points in opposition to the resolution are in fact a distraction to what the resolution actually reads. It doesn't take a stance against Israel or Israeli companies. The 3 companies are not Israeli companies. Human rights violations not controversial, and there are no 2 sides. The fact is that 2 companies are profiting off human rights violations and happen to be towards Palestinians. Many viewing the resolution feel that it's controversial, but if corporations are sponsoring



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human rights violations towards Israelis or others, then there should be a resolution to do that. This resolution would set a precedent for that. We would no longer be contributing to the oppression of humans. Voting no or abstaining is staying complicit in that. Vote yes to divest, vote yes for justice.

- cc. *Timothy Adams.1254*: I am an OSU graduate and am part of the International Socialist Organization and I support the divestment resolution. There's been talk about anti-Semitic behavior at other universities. There is no evidence that links divestment to hate crimes of any kind. There are hate crimes on lots of campuses, but it's often the local students for justice in Palestine and local chapter and divestment campaign that speaks most vocally against that hate crime. When Purdue had swastikas on campus, it was the pro-Palestinian students who circulated signatures condemning that hate on campus. The divestment movement locally and nationally promotes peace and not hate. Any other university that has passed divestment has a diverse range of interests signed onto it. Divestment is not inherently anti-Semitic, but represents a wide range of views. Saying that erases the fact that Jewish Voices for Peace, a national organization with over 50,000 members that view divestment as something in line with Judaic values, support it. I also want to address the claim that divestment is divisive. It's interesting that many of opponents have talked about divisive but not how. That's because it's not divisive. But I will say that we live on a divided campus. We come to a campus divided by bigotry, transphobia and others.
- i. *Cramer*: I'm curious about this: if they found out swastikas all around campus, what is that if not an increase in anti-Semitic behavior?
 - ii. *Adams.1254*: Possibly the mainstream President and rise of the right-wing parties across world which target Muslims and Jews.
 - iii. *Cramer*: Can the speaker give the date when this happened at Purdue?
 - iv. *Adams.1254*: Can't give exact date but within last 2 months.

dd. Motion to extend speaking time to 3 minutes PASSED.

- ee. *Daniella Eglash.2*: I am a second-year studying Psychology and pre-med and I live off campus. I am involved in Global Health Investment and the Mount Leadership Society. I value individuals. This resolution demonizes the African American identity and Jewish people. I've traveled to Poland and walked footsteps of millions of my ancestors and bore witness to millions of deaths of humans. Then, I traveled to Israel and saw the light where all people are accepted for who they are. Israel is also silencing human rights atrocities throughout the world. By singling out the only democratic state in the Middle East, it's demonizing the human rights that we hold so dearly as Americans. I urge you to vote no. It's based off of BDS, which is a well-funded organization whose mission is to delegitimize Israel as a nation-state. I believe we can find another resolution that does not demonize and target students at this university. It does not resolve the issue—it exasperates and promotes anti-Semitism. Promoting hate and intolerance is not the answer.
- i. *Mubarak*: How does divestment from American and British corporations demonize your identity?



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- ii. *Eglash.2*: Do I have to answer?
 - iii. *Waidelich*: No, you do not.
- ff. *Carly Sobol.13*: I am a second-year neuroscience student and I spent last week in Israel working in an alternative spring break program. I have some comments I want to share. Returning from Israel just a few days ago, I saw peace in Israel. I worked with people from Arab and Jewish backgrounds for first-generation Israelis at a school. After hearing from a multitude of high school students, the importance of a Jewish homeland has never been more clear. The Jewish National Fund is invested in raising the next generation of Israelis—Jewish or Muslim. Each classroom has a Jewish and Muslim teacher and they teach students to embrace both cultures and holidays. I want to leave you with a story from an organization that protects Israeli farms against raids. A member of the Israeli army protects other family's farms at night after work. I urge you all to learn and then take action. I urge you to continue learning. We are not ready to spring into action and resolve these issues as we have so much to learn. Keep the story of values of the soldier protecting farms and know that we can promote coexistence. We need to take steps at OSU to promote understanding and peace.
 - i. *Mubarak*: Did you visit the occupation in Palestine or the West Bank?
 - ii. *Sobol.13*: No, it was not safe to go into those areas with the college-age students and security we had.
- gg. *Marlo Hristovski.8*: The motives of 48-R-43 must be confronted because we are missing a forest for the trees. To sit here and pretend divest is not anti-Semitic is ridiculous because I don't see how it supports existence of Jewish state. This resolution seeks to undermine both legitimization of Jewish people but also prospects of peace. Divestment seeks to strangle peace. Even if not divesting from Israel or peace, sending downward pressure to these companies working in Israel so we are pressuring Israel. No incentive for Israel to create peace with Pales. To align with resolution is to align with movement that does not seek to see both sides uplifted and thrived. This resolution isolates state of Israel. We are Buckeyes and we are Americans and quite frankly we are better than this. Why not sit down and create a resolution that seeks to uplift both Israelis and Palestinians? I would support that.
- hh. *Quince Guttman.29*: I came up here because I am a Jewish-American and I would like to shed light on what I feel is most Jews in America are taught that Israel is our one safe area. We are taught that Israel is the only thing standing between us and a second holocaust. Whether or not that is true, that does not excuse Israel from the humanitarian violations that it has perpetrated. Another thing that I have learned from being a Jewish-American is that justice runs deep in every Jew's veins. That's what I've been taught and that's what I've been learned. Justice is a core part of our being. It would be un-Jewish I feel to not support divestment. I support not having a second holocaust. I do not support Israel's humanitarian I forget the word I'm sorry I just came from an exam it's been a long day. I do not support



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that. I support having a place for Jews and that place can be the United States just as much as it can be for Israel.

- ii. *Jana Al-Akhras*.³ I am here to appeal to you as one of your constituents. Like the others in this room who support this bill, no one is asking you as senators to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. No person in support of divestment should be making a comment about the conflict or bring forth a personal story, because that detracts from the issue at hand. It is a diversion, playing to emotions and disregarding the facts that have brought us to this very moment. Decades of peace talks have not brought forth peace, and this bill if passed does not seek to undermine them. As an OSU student, I simply do not wish to be complacent in the investment of companies that aid war crimes. I ask you to take a hard look at yourself and recognize that you are alienating us. Your constituents, your classmates, your peers. It is preposterous that the terminology used to describe us in this room has been “immigrants,” as if our hyphenated identities prove why we are passionate about this issue. As if we are so easily categorized when our identities span ethnic, religious, racial and gender boundaries. It is easy to disregard legitimate concerns by calling them political statements in order to forego dealing with them. I ask you to consider why this is so important to us. What do we lose by voting yes on this issue? This is only a polarizing issue if you make it one. At the end of the day, investment in a company that harms others around you is a problem, regardless of if you personally feel as though you can relate to them or not. Nothing hurts Palestinians and Israelis more than separating them physically. Nothing is more damaging than creating disproportionate inequality in their education, housing, and security. By commending us for our bravery, you are telling us to be quiet, complacent, and that you are not ready to examine our pain or examine yourselves. Commending bravery is code for you are speaking from an emotional place, and your discomfort makes us uncomfortable. Recognize that the status quo is the narrative. It is illogical to discount a viewpoint as biased solely because the story of a disenfranchised party is being brought to light. If there are truly two sides to every story, consider the power in listening to the side of divestment and assessing it based on its merits instead of your preconceived notions of this initiative. We cannot deny stories that make us who we are, but we can work towards a better future. South African apartheid did not help integrate citizens and allow them to understand each other. We know all too well that separate is not equal. We tried that in this country and are still suffering from the effects of Jim Crow. Vote yes to divest, and at the very least, remain neutral on this issue. We cannot claim neutrality by continuing on the course that has been laid out for us. There is no equality in a system of occupier and occupied; colonizer and colonized. It is easy from a position of power to speak from a place of privilege in which you do not need to consider the effects of your actions. The rhetoric that Arabs inherently hate Jews is racist in nature. It reiterates the narrative that Arabs are not intelligent or pragmatic enough to form opinions outside of this hate that is supposedly inherent. If you want students to be valued, consider the voices that are asking you to consider this bill. We have united behind human



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rights and we ask you to join us. If we are not qualified to make foreign policy decisions, why are we given a vote in a general election? If you do not think that you are qualified to make a foreign policy decision in this chamber, then I urge you not to vote in the general election in the fall. We do have power. I'm asking you to take that power and consider this bill in its own right, free from emotion.

jj. Motion to end the Open Forum for the Public FAILED.

- kk. *Furat Abdallah.51*: I am a second-year Pharmacy student. I have lived most of my life in Palestine and I want to share some stories from while I lived there. As an 8 year-old girl I went to school everyday in fear of being suffocated by tear gas. I feared every day and night that I'd be a victim of the Israeli occupation. Insults flung at me and life of my brothers by Israeli vehicles who had purposely run my brother over. I thought about not attending school which had become an act of defense. Palestinian homes are bulldozed to make way for it. If son wanted to visit father in house he grew up in he had to get approval from the Israeli army, which was hard to get. It also takes at least one day to get to father. I lived a life under siege. Our rights were violated and ensured death. I almost lost my brother when an Israeli soldier popped up and shot my brother but missed thankfully. Stories will always visually remember thousands of others who currently suffer from occupation. This is why we shouldn't support these 3 companies.
- ll. *Elaine Cleary.104*: I am a proud Jew of Social and Behavioral Sciences and off campus. I am calling on my senators to vote yes on the resolution. I am a Jew who believes in the Jewish tradition and feel accountable to respond to this resolution. I join with Jews across campus who realize we have to stand in solidarity against those who seek to silence human rights activists. This resolution seeks to harm American and British companies, not Israel and its trade partners. It only seeks to harm trade companies that are complicit in human rights violations. Divestment does not hold Israel to higher standards. While the U.S. is held to lower, this seeks to call on equality to abide by international law. It is in the Jewish tradition to hold all governments accountable. The U.S. has given Israel a free pass and unconditional diplomatic support to take Palestinian lives with impunity. The resolution does not seek to demonize Israel but divestment calls on Israel to abide by international law. Countries have continually been legitimized by abiding by international law. I am inspired by those who take part in justice and fight for freedom.
- mm. *Seema Sandhu.64*: I am a Public Health student. The issue of neutrality is not supporting either side in a conflict. I Googled the definition of neutrality. Right now we are taking a stance. Right now there are Palestinian houses being demolished. Palestinians who do not have access to medical care or healthcare because of HP's biometric identification systems. We do not understand that it's happening right now and there's legal detainment illegal under international law. Please understand and digest the idea of neutrality. We are not neutral. They are hurting people. This is a serious issue and we need to address it. Look at the second page of the resolution on line 29. The clause states that most effective way for us to achieve neutrality is by ending financial support. This clause illustrates that it's by



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divesting that neither side is being supported. It's not taking a stance. It's saying that we want to be neutral as OSU. We are not neutral right now. I want to address fact that Palestinians are being harmed and this is not for any side.

nn. *Leen Amin.103*: I am a student on the Committee for Justice in Palestine and people keep saying that we delegitimize Israel and saying that we demonize Israel. But our mission statement on our website says that we oppose the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and the human rights abuses committed against the Palestinian people. The Committee for Justice in Palestine is a democratic student organization that raises awareness through education activism and opposes human rights violations in Palestine. We agree that the Palestinian people must ultimately be able to decide their future in Palestine. The following principles grounded in international law, human rights, and basic standards of justice are fundamental to a just resolution to the plight of the Palestinians: An end to colonial systems of governance in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel; an end to the illegal Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, per UN Resolution 242; an end to the blockade of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territories; withdrawal and an end to illegal Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories; recognition of the Right of Return for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants, per UN Resolution 194; an end to the Israeli system of apartheid and discrimination against the indigenous Palestinian population. We ask that Israel stop committing human rights abuses against Palestinians and that OSU withdraw from companies that contribute to these in Palestine from Israel.

oo. 20 MINUTE RECESS after emergency with Senator Marchese.

pp. Motion to extend recess by 5 minutes APPROVED.

qq. Role call vote after recess.

rr. *Grant Goldberg.310*: I am a third-year Sports Industry major living off campus. I am a board member with Buckeyes for Israel and an employee of Fusian. My concern is the big divisiveness felt on campus. It is clearly felt and I feel that today. Unfortunately, this is not the first time on campus. My friend who asked to be anonymous was at a pro-Israel event and was aggressively berated after voicing support of the Jewish state. Someone aggressively placed a hand on my Jewish friend and he asked me to walk him home due to his fear. This is not the first time and my fear with this resolution is the evidence and strong correlation on campuses when divestment is passed—that correlation of divestment and anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, and anti-Zionist sentiments and actions on campus. Another university in which divestment passed was Stanford University. My friend Molly at Stanford University wanted to run for student government and she had to undergo an interview. There, she was asked "Given your Jewish identity, how would you vote on divestment?" She was confused and asked for clarification. They said they saw on her application that she had a Jewish identity and asked how would that impact her decision on divestment. She said she supported negotiations to talk about this and take steps toward peace. She also responded that she is a strong Jewish supporter and opposed divest. The



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interview was then pretty much over and she was not able to defend her point. These are just two examples of how divest would harm our campus. Thank you.

ss. *Abdel-Rasoul.3*: I am an OSU grad and I'm here to clarify a few matters. Speakers have spoken about experiences, studying abroad, Israel and how beautiful that experience studying abroad in Israel was. I would like to share that as well. However, not exactly like that. After graduating from OSU, I went to law school and during law school, I applied for study abroad like many of you. Anyone of you can go anywhere including Israel, but due to biometric identification systems by HP, Israel knows I am of Palestinian descent and I cannot enter their borders. Haifa University in Israel, when I applied for study abroad, denied me because they couldn't guarantee I could get into Israel. We are American, we are students like you, we go here like you guys. We should make sure no country discriminates against us and that is what is happening. Israel discriminates against us as US citizens. Many of you have received letters from congressmen about divestment and voting no. They don't pay attention to the fact that discrimination based on identity and national origin are rejected. You should not be corrupt like these senators and follow the morals and values that the US and our constitution stands for.

tt. Motion to close Open Forum at 9 pm FAILED.

uu. Amended motion to cap the speaker's list of the Open Forum for the Public (requires 3/4 vote) PASSED.

vv. *Joely Friedman.312*: I am a fourth-year studying Journalism and I am the President of the Society of Professional Journalists at OSU. There are some comments claiming that Israel is breaking international law. Let's question the credibility there for a second. The UN creates international law, and the UN is the same organization that awarded Saudi Arabia with head of the Human Rights Council. Saudi Arabia is a country that has no idea what democracy is. We should consider who created these international laws supposedly broken.

ww. *Maya Spector.45*: I am a first year and I'm here to tell a story about one summer night in 2006 when I visited Israel. We visited my grandmother and stayed with her for a night. The next morning, I remember waking to what I thought were morning fireworks. I remember my mother's face full of terror when she realized what the sounds truly meant, the screams and panic in my grandmother's home when we had to pack up and leave instantly. My grandmother refused to leave, as she had stayed in that home since 1948. I remember the tears running down my mother's cheeks when she realized that she would never convince my grandmother of otherwise, that she may not ever see her mother again. As we left my grandmother's house, she told us to never let fear win. Driving away, I would never again see flowers in my grandmother's garden or my favorite playground down the street. My ten year-old self, up to then, had only seen the world through rose-colored glasses. That morning was the start of the second Lebanese war in 2006. I didn't know what it meant to live under fire, which Americans don't have to deal with. I want to support human rights for Palestinians and want to support them, but we cannot forget the human



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rights of Israelis. The companies that we invest in secure Israel's borders, and make them more safe on a day-to-day basis. Without these, I may never have been able to return to my grandmother's home.

- i. *Mubarak*: Could the speaker elaborate on how Palestinian homes being demolished and being tortured affect the security of Israel?
 - ii. *Spector.45*: No response.
- xx. *Vidar Thorsteinsson.1*: I am a graduate student at OSU in the Department of Comparative Studies. I have been more or less active in Palestinian solidarity work in my home country of Iceland for the past ten years, in UK during my masters degree, in Belgium, and in Israel, and I've visited the Palestinian occupied territories on three separate occasions. I also did Palestinian solidarity work inside Israel. The Palestinian struggle for human rights is a relatively new thing in America today in 2015. In most Western Europe countries, it has been decades since the Palestinian situation has been recognized as an urgent cause for action. Upholding their rights isn't a question, but taken for granted. Their fears and concerns are understood. The racist microaggressions against Jews are real concerns but the way they've been portrayed are out of proportion when we look at the actual content of the resolution. This resolution does not make reference to anyone's national identify or individuals or profile them or discriminate against them in any way. It's important to take a stand of human rights for a particular population. That's how activism works. It's by taking a stand one stand at a time. It's whether the resolution is based on sound principles, which this resolution is and I encourage everyone to actually look at the text of the resolution that dispels myths.
- yy. *Andrew Lin.849*: I'm here to speak on the notion that supporting human rights is anti-Semitic. The only place for an anti-Semite is on the receiving end of a --. The idea that passing this will exclude a population of people despite the fact that we've heard from supportive Jews is ridiculous. If you don't pass this in favor of human rights, you will not only be excluding people, but you'll be saying that Palestinian lives don't matter to the university and that is exclusionary.
- zz. *Arie Vanderslais.3*: Saying that anti-Semitism is limited to physical violence is insulting to me and the human rights you're working for. I spent a year studying and volunteering in Israel in the middle of a desert a town one-sixth the size of our university. Each day was enriching and brought a sense of positivity. There, I developed a brand-new passion for simple dialogue. One day, I traveled to a more diverse place up north and entered a Palestinian community with skepticism—but I discovered the absence of hate and desire to understand and reach peace. I sat with a Palestinian girl and discussed mutual passion and desperation for peace. For decades, both people have lived in an unfair reality. Innocent Israelis and Palestinians are put in dangerous or deadly situations. It's a tragedy. It's a tragedy that 70% of Pales in the West Bank are unemployed. It's a tragedy that Isralelis are forced to leave their home. It's a tragedy that thousands are mercilessly killed. Divestment will only affect innocent civilians at root of these issues.



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- aaa. *Sandy Bolzenius.2*: I am an OSU alum of several degrees. I am neither Israeli nor Palestinian, neither Jewish nor Muslim. I like everybody and I don't want anyone to suffer from harm or exploitation. Settlements are harmful. I urge you to vote yes on this resolution. I am old enough to remember the disinvestment side for South Africa. It worked on two different levels. It brought widespread attention to treatment of black South Africans. I educated myself through debates and discussions and materials on the news and from friends. That forced positive change through even business leaders and government leaders who took action. The building of settlements continues to cause unconscionable harm to Palestinians. It's wrong to take this land and to support the taking of this land. I'm sure you know that positive change doesn't come from the top. The status quo profits from it. Change must start from we the people. Support disinvestment because the settlements are so wrong.
- i. *Weisman*: I'd ask the speaker to please explain how apartheid in South Africa is similar to a situation in a completely different region during a completely different time and how those two could be related to each other.
 - ii. *Bolzenius.2*: I don't see them as completely different. There's exploitation and taking of the land, similar to apartheid.
 - iii. *Hooker*: The speaker mentioned Israeli settlements. I'm wondering what they have to do with this resolution.
 - iv. *Bolzenius.2*: The resolution is about supporting disinvesting from companies fundamental to—maybe not fundamental to, but involved in the building of these settlements.
- bbb. *Noah Leavitt.47*: I'm reading this on behalf of Hannah Newburger, who couldn't be here right now. This is a letter to USG. I'm a second-year math major. I work part-time at the Office of Disability Services and a member of the Green Engineering Scholars program. I spent 9 months abroad, made friends, participated in public service, visited judicial court, and became aware of blooming court and witnessed blooming cooperation. This wasn't in the UK, Germany, or any other country. It was Israel. Israel embraces innovation, cooperation, and understanding. It's one of the most interesting parts of the world with backgrounds and cultures present—there are Armenian, Israeli, Muslim, etc quarters. The Israeli people are free to publicly practice what they believe in. Israel provides medical care to everyone regardless of their national origin. I've met with members of communities and kept hearing the same thing. Just like in every other country in world, there are political disputes, but Israel provides a great quality of life for its citizens. I urge you to vote no. Divesting only hurts our university and decreases opportunities for students who graduate from the university, and it's creating more problems for us and our community. Please think about the consequences that this would have to everyone here.
- i. *Mubarak*: Could you pinpoint the Muslim and Jerusalem quarter that you mentioned?
 - ii. *Leavitt.47*: I prefer not to respond.



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- iii. *Drenkhan*: Quick question: was Hannah Newburger just studying abroad or not able to make it? Did you have a similar experience?
- iv. *Leavitt.47*: We have similar experiences, and she couldn't make it, so she asked me to read it.
- ccc. *Beth Moses.145*: I am passionate about issues in the international community, and I want to draw back discussion to impacts on this campus. Divestment doesn't create any issues on campus it's not divisive maybe you Googled first article that you could and read it, but having read with people on other campuses such as USC and Northwestern, they felt unsafe on their college campuses and felt that it divided communities even further. This is a path towards aggression, not peace. I don't think any senators want that on our campus. Two main issues brought up in today's discussion. The first is neutrality and how to define it. Is this resolution neutral or is it not, but divesting isn't neutral because you're actively avoiding a side through this resolution. By divesting we are actively avoiding them. Neutral casually interact but by divesting we're pulling out from them and it's not a neutral resolution. Everyone here I hope wants to create meaningful change. We need change on both sides. Side that will benefit one side and other side of students. I think we should create alternates and propose a resolution and have a conversation about it multiple or one group on campus that won't be happy about this.
 - i. *Cramer*: You mentioned on other campuses that once divestment was enacted, things didn't go very well. Are you aware of the status quo or isolated incidents?
 - ii. *Moses.145*: There are a variety of ways to answer. It's starting to become the status quo. Several candidates running for office have condemned the BDS movement and promoting peace is having active discussion. Universities are passing it and students are feeling unsafe and divided.
 - iii. *Mubarak*: Could you clarify how students will feel unsafe if we divest from multinational corporations?
 - iv. *Moses.145*: I can't answer that for you but I hope you've been listening to everything said before me. They would feel unsafe, myself included.
 - v. *Weisman*: I am wondering if you could elaborate on how it makes students feel when companies directly related to Israel are being targeted.
 - vi. *Moses.145*: Many students are employed by Caterpillar and G4S and passing this would hurt those students, especially when they are given scholarships by those universities. Scholarships taken away not affecting positive change.
 - vii. *Mubarak*: Could you tell me how students feel unsafe when their own university is investing in corporation complicit in their own people's suffering?
 - viii. *Moses.145*: We should all sit down and have peaceful conversation rather than attacking head on. We should hear both sides of story.
 - ix. *Honaker*: What are the universities that you have friends at?



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- x. *Moses.145*: I have friends at a lot of universities, including USC, Northwestern, and the University of Chicago at Loyola. I myself am a transfer from the University of Massachusetts. I transferred and I'm here so obviously I felt uncomfortable about it.
- xi. *Honaker*: The speaker mentioned universities in her speech and I'm phrasing my question off of those universities. At the universities you mentioned, they've been negatively affected by resolutions on divestment. I have been sent articles by constituents about riots of personal attacks on college campuses, do you have secondhand accounts of those?
- xii. *Moses.145*: No personal story but I can send you an email at another time for sure.
- xiii. *Buss*: Just to clarify, the speaker *transferred* to OSU because they felt unsafe at the previous campus because of BDS movement?
- xiv. *Moses.145*: It was one of them. There were many different reasons but personally I didn't feel like that was the path I wanted to continue on, especially if that was the status quo for the resolution to pass on that campus.
- xv. *Hamze Ahmed.502*: I am a second-year black son of immigrants and I am a Muslim. I do understand the sentiment shared today about marginalized groups. I do. My intentions aren't to speak but sitting here for 2.5 hours I felt obligated to contribute. What I know about this resolution I've heard of online and I haven't been active. But these are some words I heard from close friend about it and I agree with them. It is morally repulsive to admire Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when it's this similar divestment movement when it broke the South African apartheid which a concentrated minority are advocating for. This is not positioned against the state of Israel and this is not a political but accountability and ethical issue. Our u did not divest from SA apartheid until our US govt did. When it comes to HRs at OSU we're behind the curve so let's change that.
 - 1. *Levi Cramer*: Do you have experience in South Africa with apartheid?
 - 2. *Ahmed.502*: I visited South Africa in 2010. Most apartheid protests happened. I don't have answer for you but what I can tell you is movements and forums like this what we're doing today it was things doing here today that contributed to end of apartheid in South Africa.
- ddd. *Yousuf Yousuf.10*: There's been political and economic jargon, but we haven't made an appeal to humanity yet. I want to emphasize again that the resolution itself is targeting companies complicit in human rights violations. As we said, Caterpillar bulldozers aren't on campus they're made to destroy homes bulletproof, etc. Just like we tabled it last time and you had a chance to inform yourselves I ask that you look to other movements that have talked about this. Look to Amnesty International and others. As students we are in any position to doubt their claims when they pursue it. As you consider appeal to humanity and lost lives, I want to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said cowardice asks question is it safe...vanity asks q is it popular. Conscience asks question is it right. Time comes when we take not safe, popular, etc. I appeal to your humanity.



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- eee. *Sarah Amusbahi.1*: I am one of the writers of the resolution so I'm familiar with what it says. There are lots of opinions and feelings on this issue. I'd like to highlight two whereas clauses, one being the 87th clause: "Whereas over twenty OSU student organizations endorsed this resolution including African Youth League, Arab Student Union, Bangladesh Student Association, Buckeye Bhangra, Buckeye Fusion, Coalition for Black Lives, Committee for Justice in Palestine, FemUNITY, Indian American Association, International Socialist Organization, Iranian Cultural Association, Model African Union, Muslim Students' Association, Pakistani American Students' Association, Peace Corps Club, Project: Educate XX, Say Hi, SHADES, Somali Students' Association, Syrian Student Union, Still We Rise, United Students Against Sweatshops, and Urdu Club." I point to that and say it's not a two-sided issue. We're presenting as two lines trying to come towards each other but now it's going in separate directions. This is something we hope to continue. It's not the end all be all. We hope to have dialogue and that kind of stuff a peaceful dialogue. I don't understand why this isn't a good way to go about that and I don't know if that resonates with you and I'd be happy to hear feedback. I'd also like to point to clause 66.
- i. *Waidelich*: Sorry, the time limit is up. We have to open for questions now.
 - ii. *Amusbahi.1*: Okay, well please look at clause 66.
 - iii. *Chang*: What does clause 66 say?
 - iv. *Amusbahi.1*: "Whereas this resolution is solely aimed at denouncing this university's support of companies that enable human rights violations and does not aim to condemn a country, a people, or a community, or to determine a political solution."
 - v. *Weisman*: Please explain how targeting 3 companies specifically in geographical location does not target a specific country?
 - vi. *Amusbahi.1*: We're talking 3 companies their human rights violations extend further than the occupied Palestinian territories. This is a lot of where our research lies. A lot of students have done a lot of research on this, and these companies hold a significant role in maintaining prisons and stuff like that. They also hold a significant role in the US. For example. Columbia University is officially divested from them.
 - vii. *Weisman*: I just want to clarify this statement. If these companies are specifically detailing a certain geographical region, I want to know how it's not targeting a specific country or state. What's the research you have on their committing human rights violations in other areas of the world?
 - viii. *Amusbahi.1*: A lot of Israeli companies have done research on this. These research companies are located in Israel. Just because they happen to be in a region where the identity of people is politicized doesn't make it less valid. We're not targeting Israel as a country itself. The companies are three among thousands that have dealings with Israel. These are American and British companies. G4S is British and the others are American.
 - ix. *Weisman*: I was asking about the research you have dealing with human rights violations taking place in other countries. If you're saying it's not targeting a region,



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where specifically in the resolution does it say that you're not targeting a specific geographic location?

- x. *Amusbahi.1*: Clauses 45 and 48, "Whereas HP profits from global mass incarceration and provides prisoner data systems for the detainment of undocumented immigrants in the United States, and (clause 48) Whereas G4S profits from the growth of private prisons and mass incarceration all over the world, as well as by facilitating the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants." Emphasis on United States. All over the world emphasis. Undocumented immigrants. Those address populations outside of occupied Palestine.
- xi. *Cramer*: Could the speaker please define mass incarceration?
- xii. *Amusbahi.1*: The incarceration of many people.
- xiii. *Cramer*: Where is mass incarceration defined as a human rights violation?
- xiv. *Amusbahi.1*: Can I answer with a question?
- xv. *Waidelich*: Yes, but he can't answer it. You can't go back and forth without a follow-up.
- xvi. *Amusbahi.1*: G4S holds children and political prisoners without trial. That's a violation of human rights and our constitution in the U.S.
- xvii. *Belfiglio*: Line 45 states that "HP profits from global mass incarceration and provides prisoner data systems for the detainment of undocumented immigrants in the United States." Are you merely saying that they provide these systems or that the very act of providing these is a human rights violation? By implying that HP provides them, are we saying that those are human rights violations?
- xviii. *Amusbahi.1*: In some cases. There are...there's a lot of controversy. This is just extra information, but it's not just that. The main reason why is they provide biometric systems used in checkpoints. I would say personally that providing the systems because they're profiting off the mass incarceration of undocumented immigrants not able to get the legal help they need. Personally that's a violation of human rights.
- xix. *Bodey*: Just a reminder that we are not cross-examining the public this evening.
- xx. *Cramer*: Could the speaker speak to the actual incarceration of children? I skimmed article linked in the resolution and the mass incarceration of children is not mentioned anywhere. I'm not seeing children anywhere here. Is there any evidence that HP helps with the incarceration of children?
- xxi. *Amusbahi.1*: Referencing G4S. There's a link here of who profits.
- xxii. *Weisman*: I'm wondering how exactly mass incarceration is a human rights issue for you?
- xxiii. *Waidelich*: Your question has to be focused on the content of the speech.
- xxiv. *Weisman*: Withdrawn.
- xxv. *Honaker*: I'm speaking to mass incarceration and I read through the links but has there been any evidence or convictions, or pictures of mass incarceration? You can be held in a jail before trial in America and other countries do things differently, and



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that doesn't mean they do them right. I want to make sure these companies have evidence that they're doing that.

- xxvi. *Amusbahi.1*: The link is given in reference to that clause. If you need further evidence we can meet up after and we can talk further. I can show you links and pictures I don't have any with me now but we can definitely talk about it.
- xxvii. *Bock*: Since the speaker is one of the writers of the resolution, am I allowed to ask her about the resolution?
- xxviii. *Waidelich*: No, you are only allowed to question her on her speech during the Open Forum for the Public.
- xxix. *Cramer*: Mass incarceration is not among a human rights issue mentioned in this article. This article includes complaints from 2012, from things such as no qualified childcare, unnecessary force against children, and a prison culture. Has there been actual detention of children and anything else since 2012 when this article was written?
- xxx. *Amusbahi.1*: Yes, there has and I can show you. I didn't speak about mass incarceration in my speech. It was in regards to your first question.
- fff. *Tyler Albl.1*: I just want to remind everybody to unclench and I want to talk about why we're here. I mean American Jews. Whether we debate international law or not, there are human rights violations going on. What makes American Jews blind to these? I was before, but now I'm not. I talked and I looked and I realized there's something in our culture called fear, in our past and future and unseen in the now. We don't see what's going on and instead we act. In the 16th century Shakespeare wrote Merchant of Venice anti-Semitic character in money loaner called Shylock. He demands a pound of flesh for his security in return for his debt. It was not then in Venice a Jewish thing to demand a pound of flesh for security and that's not the case in Israel now. We can divest from idea that human rights violations are alright to perpetuate something like this. I'm asking you to send out a beacon of hope and peace that will let us overcome this fear. Thank you.

III. Executive Report

- a. *Abby Grossman*
 - i. New USG administration—congratulations! There will be Cabinet next week as normal. March 29th will be a Cabinet meeting under the 2015-2016 administration.
 - ii. The Sustainability Fair will be on Wednesday, April 6th with about 40 different student organizations here in the Ohio Union from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. *Allocations – Jenna Gravalis*
 - i. Q4 funding will start on April 1st.
 - 1. Q3 is closed, but tell your friends that the funding application for Q4 is now open! We will start to look at those this Sunday, March 27th.
 - 2. Engineering Senators: please talk to me about constituency event and the gift cards.



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- b. Oversight – *Daniel Marchese*
 - i. Oversight did not meet this week.

V. Department of Public Safety Address

- a. A driver simulator was donated to the university. It is located in the Department of Public Safety, (Secretary’s note for interested parties: located at the Michael Blankenship Hall on West Campus. The address is 901 Woody Hayes Drive.)
- b. *Stricken from the agenda due to conflict in time.*

VI. Old Business

- a. 48-R-43 *A Resolution to Support the Withdrawal of OSU’s Investments in Corporations Complicit in Human Rights Violations*
 - i. **Motion to bring this off the table PASSED.**
 - ii. *Kenyon*: Yield to Jana Al-Akhras.
 - iii. *Al-Akhras.3*: I just want to clarify that we cannot deny our stories, but we can work towards a better future. South African apartheid did not help. Separate but not equal is not equality. We still suffer from Jim Crow. We cannot claim neutrality. There is no justice in occupied and occupier. This is not an issue of Israelis and Palestinians and Arabs. If you want students to be valued, this isn’t what you’re here for. We have united behind human rights. There are 20 student orgs of various backgrounds here to support this issues. There’s a million dividing factors we put ourselves in. we divide ourselves on a daily basis. This is a uniting cause. What other is the same as human rights? If you are not qualified to make foreign policy decisions, do not vote in the general election. You are coming up in an election in which Israel and Palestine issues. You are qualified to make this decision. It’s not going to get rid of Israel. Stand on the right side of history. If you don’t join this train you’re going to get left behind. You can’t sit black and brown and olive skin. Things in Brussels happened the other day and we’re worried and that’s a great thing. Atrocities are happening on your tuition dollars and we’re comfortable being complacent. Contrary to what’s being said, withdrawing from this *is* neutrality and that’s a word you need to focus on and you have this power and please use this power. I could’ve come up and talked to you about how I’m Palestinian and my parents were immigrants. You should absolutely discount my statement if I spoke to you from emotion. If you look back at the words of this resolution, if you look around these are your students. There are a million students here, well not a million literally, but this is a Wednesday night. It’s past it’s 9:45 pm. I’ve had class since 10 in the morning. I can’t think of any other issue that can get students to come here to talk about other than human rights. We can say our constituents are going to be mad at you. Do you sit here and contact all constituents because I don’t even know who mine are. These are your constituents. You’re going to continually shove them and silence them and continuously push them to the side and you’re going to be wondering why the only people around you are people who look and think exactly



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like you. If that's why you're here and if you're here to actually represent your students, then I urge you to look around. I urge you to see that you actually have a chance to affect your constituents. This is asking you to do something so simple. It's asking you to not hurt people. It doesn't matter. At the end of the day, we pay with our dollars. Wherever you put your dollars, you support. Vote no to divest, but you would be doing yourself a disservice.

- iv. *Kenyon*: Yield to Yousef Yacoub, alternating for Punugu.
- v. *Waidelich*: He has speaking rights in the chamber.
- vi. *Yacoub*: Can you add me to the speaker's list?
- vii. *Waidelich*: Yes, I will do that.
- viii. *Kenyon*: The issue we're discussing here is an ethical issue. Everyone has basic inalienable human rights regardless of what state you're here. Our investments dictate what we support. We have the ability to change that to investments that are more ethically conscious. As John Kasich said in the Republican debate, Ohio State should not be in the business of parking, and Ohio State should not be in the business in investing in private prisons that restrict human rights. However, I don't agree with some of the methods that were used for this bill such as not going through steering. G4S has pulled their contract and will be ending their involvement in Israel in two years. We don't have an updated list of investments and the last was from seven years ago. We vote with our dollars and I don't agree with all aspects of the resolution and I would support a resolution supporting ethical investments for the university as a whole. I don't think it matters what state or country. We shouldn't be involved in human rights violations.
- ix. *Hooker*: The conversation has been...interesting. In my years in USG, I have never seen anything like this. There's been 11 yields in one speaker, more public forum speakers than the last 5 years combined, a packed house near fire code, I've been contacted by more constituents over last 2 weeks than in the years I've been a representative, and there are members of the US House of Representatives stepping in. There's something about Divest and BDS in general that makes people act so outrageously different from their normal selves all of a sudden. It's like a game of monopoly...This isn't the first contentious thing we've discussed. Mirror Lake is one of them. it has a direct personal effect for lots of constituents. People were given one week's notice and there were still less people. Before getting to the meat of my discussion, there are five things that I want to make abundantly clear: First, this issue is not simple, it is far from simple; portraying this as a simple issue does an incredible disservice to the nuance that underlies all of the politics that accompany a topic like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among other things. Second, I want to disavow everybody of the notion that we are dealing in absolutes here; placing a yes or no vote on this resolution is not equivalent to being pro-Israel or pro-Palestine; portraying this issue as such does nothing but prevent people from properly



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informing themselves and drawing their own conclusions based on the information they find. Third, I will not be burdening you all with yet another restatement of a common opinion on the broader points of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Fourth, I will not be yielding my time to anyone at the end of my discussion; we have plenty more people on the speakers list for that. And finally, we as student government cannot enact university-level fiscal changes in a direct manner, voting yes on this resolution does not say that we are going to divest, it says with the weight of the entire student body that undergraduates believe we should divest. This is not what ultimately informs my stance, but it is important that everyone is aware of this fact. The passion is misplaced. At this time I would like to yield to Cramer.

- x. *Waidelich*: Cramer has already been placed on the speaker's list.
- xi. *Cramer*: I have a statement that Marchese would like me to read on his behalf.
- xii. *Waidelich*: Can Carly Hooker read it?
- xiii. *Hooker*: We touched on lack of access to investments, and not knowing investments is something that effects EVERY SINGLE STUDENT. I want to deal in hypotheticals for a bit. Let's ignore details about resolutions being null and void at the end of the session. Let's pretend that this resolution passes. The first scenario: it goes to University Senate Fiscal and dies in University Senate Fiscal. Second scenario: it goes to University Senate Floor, passes University Senate Fiscal, dies on the floor of University Senate. This is where the issue starts to arise. Third Scenario: Board of trustees. It passes University Senate Fiscal, passes the whole University Senate. There's absolutely no way in the Board of Trustees. Fourth Scenario: The issue with lack of knowledge of OSU's investments. Even though we can be fairly certain of it, there is no actual guarantee that we are indeed invested in these companies. If the Board of Trustees says they divested from a company, there is no accountability, we have no way of knowing if they actually did or not because we still don't have access to investment records. In the first scenarios, we have lost the respect of our faculty, staff, and administration, which will have a direct negative impact on practically everything USG does from that point forward. In the last scenario, we run into an issue of practicality, we expend a very large amount of effort with no way of knowing whether the end result is even desirable for students and no way to find out. None of those will actually happen because this resolution carries no weight with the administration starting at 6:30 in two Wednesdays. Our biggest takeaway from this is that we have no way of finding out who OSU is investing in, and in what amounts. This is a phenomenal project for the next USG administration to tackle, and it applies to every single one of our constituents. So to be clear, my vote will not be a result of being pro-Israel, my vote will not be a result of being pro-Palestine. I'm not voting a certain way because I'm being pressured to by one side or the other, and I'm not voting a certain way because members of congress said I should. I encourage the body to take three things to mind: Please do not vote simply vote a



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certain way because you see me or someone else voting that way. I would implore you not to abstain, please do not be afraid of having an opinion. I would discourage a speaking limit so as not to accidentally shorten discussion points that encapsulate many subtleties, however I also discourage talking simply for the sake of talking rather than making a point.

- xiv. *Harper*: Thank you to those who spoke, those who I've met with and spoke, and those who've educated me. My views have been challenged changed and reaffirmed and I'm grateful for the opportunities. I would like to specially thank Ari Vanderslais and Elaine Cleary. Human rights and the equality of others should be of the utmost importance. I cannot stomach that scholarships and internships are more important than one's life. My concern with transparency in where my tuition dollars are being spent. This went a million places beyond just the 3 companies, especially if tuition is spent in a way that I don't approve. I was talking to a friend of mine, and this friend stated that this seems like performing surgery on a leg when the problem is the heart. I feel the best way to make a lasting change in human rights if that is truly our mission in this body, while I respect the discussion, my vote is still up in the air. I do think we need to work together and we need to work together because it's scary that I don't know where my tuition dollars are being spent.
- xv. *Khan*: Using the 2009 investment spreadsheet that was distributed to us, I calculated a total of 1.04 million dollars or 0.3% of the OSU's total investments go towards G4S, HP, and Caterpillar. Obviously investments have changed over the last seven years, but I think it brings some perspective to the issue at hand. I believe this resolution should be judged and analyzed for the content within the document and the *direct* implications of the resolution. Over the last 2 weeks, I have researched this resolution and its impacts on our campus and undergraduate student body. It would not have been possible for me to understand all vantage points on BDS or the Israeli-Palestinian and Jewish-Muslim conflict, so I choose not to comment on that because they are not mentioned in this resolution. We must move towards removing this university's investments from companies, like the 3 specific companies in the resolution, who are guilty of being, at the least, complacent with human rights violations. I am positive that there are many more companies that OSU is invested in that are guilty of heinous crimes like these. As a student body, we must stand up against ALL companies that commit or support human rights violations. I agree with what Senator Harper and Senator Chang said 2 weeks ago, what Senator Harper just said, and what Senator Kenyon said earlier. This resolution is well-written and brings up important and valid issues, but there are certain shortcomings of this resolution. It is difficult not to provide my utmost support for this, especially because we are talking about innocent victims. However, at this point, I am not sure whether I will be able to support this resolution, due to the fact that it only specifies three companies without sufficient investigation. I will stand behind the cause of



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comprehensive sustainable investments at OSU, as is specified in the last seven lines of the resolution. A lot of great ideas were brought up 2 weeks ago, such as writing 2 separate new resolutions, working to bring socially responsible analysts into the pictures, asking for updated investment information, and working with University Senate to make progress on such an important issue. In conclusion, I am still not certain whether THIS resolution is the best step forward right now for this issue. Over the last 2 weeks, I have learned that divestment is a diplomatic and peaceful way to solve conflict. As a representative government of the undergraduate student body, I believe that we should immediately begin working towards the ideas I listed earlier and making sure ALL of OSU's investments, and not just a handful, are sustainable and do not promote human rights violations. I support the issue being addressed in this resolution, but I would like to see it rewritten.

- xvi. *Chris Waidelich appoints Krebel as alternate at 10:01 pm.*
- xvii. *Wydman:* While I support human rights and do not support companies complicit in human rights violations, I will only be comfortable with divesting from all corporations that follow said pattern.
- xviii. *Belfiglio:* I have a few problems with the resolution. For line 45, I don't think we should be voting on what the U.S. government does as human rights violations. Lots of areas of the resolution are very specific and lots of others are very broad. It can get confusing and the clauses aren't consistent with supposed message.
- xix. *Shaffer:* I was sworn in to protect the interests and express the interests of students at OSU. As we can see from the turnout tonight, this resolution has a lot of support and a lot of people that are against it. With that in mind, I can only imagine as the off campus senators have the largest constituency that our constituency is as divided. Therefore I cannot see myself supporting this resolution.
- xx. *Waidelich:* Please remain germane to this conversation, and keep respect towards those speaking.
- xxi. *Cramer:* Senator Shaffer, I am your constituent and I am right here. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm glad I finally get a chance to speak on this resolution after two weeks. Today we are faced with one of the most controversial topics this legislative body will ever see. We've ended Mirror Lake, this even took up the discussion of the Iraq war, where this body condemned it, as well as sitting President George W. Bush, but none of that compares to what we are faced with today. Believe it or not we're going to have to make tough decisions from time to time and now is the time to do it. We're faced with an issue that is bad for our students, it is bad for this state, and it is bad for this country. I have the distinct role of serving as our liaison to the different levels of government, who represent all of us and the people we are representing today. I also happen to be of the opinion that they have a bit more foreign policy knowledge than those of us sitting in this room. President Barack Obama has signed



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a law including anti-BDS protections for Israel,¹ Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has condemned the Israeli Boycott movement² House Speaker Paul Ryan has signed Anti-BDS Provisions,³ Senator Chuck Schumer has been vocally opposed to the BDS movement.⁴ Our Ohio Delegation has almost entirely spoken favorably of Israel. 14 of our 16 representatives and both of our senators have made MANY comments in favor of Israel.⁵ The congressmen that represent Columbus have weighed in on this subject as well. I'd like to point your attention to the second and third paragraphs of this letter that read, "It is precisely because of our commitment to a lasting peace that we oppose measures promoted by the campaign known as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Efforts to politically, economically and culturally isolate Israel breed discrimination and hate, and are not reflective of the values that we as Americans hold dear. BDS efforts are counterproductive to reform. They create division on campus and inhibit constructive dialogue among diverse parties seeking to work together to achieve peaceful solutions to a complex issue. Since its inception, the BDS movement has failed to bring Israelis and Palestinians together in peace." I want to add here that Steve Stivers is one of the foremost experts on the Middle East in the House. This letter has been followed by one by State Rep. Niraj Antani, who serves on the Economic and Workforce Development Committee and Subcommittee on Minority Affairs. Finally, we received one from Representative Tim Brown where he brought up House Bill 476 stating, "Currently in the Ohio House of Representatives, House Bill 476 has been introduced and forbids any state agency from entering into contracts with companies that participate in the BDS movement against Israel. This legislation to support our nation's strongest ally in the Middle East has Republican and Democrat support with co-sponsorship from the following members of the 131st General Assembly leadership:

1. Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
2. Speaker Pro Tempore Ron Amstutz
3. Minority Leader Fred Strahorn
4. Assistant Minority Leader Nicholas Celebrezze
5. Assistant Minority Whip Jack Cera"

xxii. *Cramer*: Now, I know the other side has argued this saying that HB 476 is not currently law but has only been proposed. I'm going to level with you here. The Speaker of the House, the Minority Leader, and many other high-ranking members of the House of Representatives have all signed onto this bill. I'd be willing to bet

¹ <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/mar/16/anti-israel-bds-movement-dealt-series-of-setbacks-/?page=all>

² <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-letter-support-israel-donor-haim-saban-bds-119770>

³ <https://roskam.house.gov/Customs-Bill-Signed-Anti-BDS>

⁴ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/schumer-pans-kerrys-bds-warnings-to-israel/>

⁵ <http://www.jewishcolumbus.org/contact-us/19-articles/474-ohio-congressional-statements-in-support-of-israel>



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that this bill is going to pass. Now, what happens after this bill is passed into law? It will now be illegal for State Run Agencies to enter contracts with BDS signing companies. If Ohio State were to do this, the State of Ohio would not be able to legally do business with us. Now I think all of us know why this would be a problem. They also mention that this bill would be deemed unconstitutional, but I find that doubtful considering the United States House of Representatives, the White House, and numerous States have all proposed similar policies with no action from the Courts. They also ask that the United States Congresswoman who represents the land we are sitting on right now, to stay out of this conversation and to recognize our sovereignty by stating that they have no right to stop us from divesting from companies. While they are correct, they are incorrect in assuming that that means the House as no right to impose penalties to those who chose to do business the BDS way. Last time I checked we were not above the law. Now we've heard before that this resolution is not about BDS but only about divestment and that this does not boil down to the Israel Palestine conflict. Unfortunately this is not the case. Just look at the two responses that the group provided to the letters from legislators. They said that, "Student initiatives urging divestment of university assets from corporations complicit in human rights abuses are just one component of this vigorous and necessary debate." And "while a fundamental operating premise of the OSU Divest campaign has always been the necessity of recognizing and critiquing the structural violence of the Israeli occupation, our critique lies also with the three aforementioned corporations and our university's complicity in those corporations' human rights violations." This second quote makes it more than clear to me that this resolution IS in fact about Israel and the first quote makes it evident to me that divestment is just the first step towards an entire policy aligned with the BDS movement. I'm not okay with this and you shouldn't be either.

- xxiii. *Yacoub*: Excuse me, how does Levi Cramer have speaking rights and voting rights? I'm confused as to why the USG website did not list his information. He's not listed as anything on the General Assembly.
- xxiv. *Waidelich*: There are issue committees such as the Academic Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion committees. Levi Cramer is Director of the Government Relations committee, which is considered a senior staff committee, like Public Relations and Internal Affairs. Those are separate committees that are not considered issue committees. (*Notes from the Secretary: Government Relations is not considered an issue committee, which is why it's not listed under the Senate Committees under the General Assembly >> Committees tab.*)
- xxv. *Yacoub*: So he was approved under senior staff? The Government Relations committee is just senior staff, not cabinet or USG?
- xxvi. *Waidelich*: The main point is that he has voting rights in this chamber.
- xxvii. *Yacoub*: What about the makeup of the committee itself?



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- xxviii. *Waidelich*: Levi Cramer has full speaking and voting rights in this chamber. Please make comments germane to this chamber and this topic of discussion. We can discuss in further detail on the makeup of this committee later.
- xxix. *Yacoub*: I spoke to many current members and they were confused on who made up this committee. I was not aware how he was approved.
- xxx. *Waidelich*: He was approved in the second resolution of this General Assembly's term. The composition or the makeup of this committee is not germane to this conversation right now. (*Notes from the Secretary: The resolution in which Levi Cramer was approved as the Director of Governmental Relations is available at usg.osu.edu under General Assembly to the far right of the webpage >> Legislation >> [48-R-2 A Resolution to Approve the Cabinet Directors](https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1182015_13471679.pdf) (https://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_1182015_13471679.pdf). His appointment is detailed on lines 26-27.*)
- xxxi. *Dixon*: I yield my time to Tomer Elias.
- xxxii. *Waidelich*: A reminder to keep this short, sweet, and to the point. We already had an Open Forum for the Public earlier. (*Notes from the Secretary: For those unfamiliar or less familiar with USG General Assembly proceedings, the Open Forum for the Public is the second order of business at every GA session. All members of the public present at the 24th session had an opportunity to go up to the microphone and voice their opinions and concerns. Asking senators to refrain from yielding to members of the public anymore and asking the members of the public yielded to to keep their statements short was therefore not a ploy to stifle students' voices or repress discussion, but rather an effort to move along with discussion involving the voting members of the room so a vote could come to the table before midnight, at which time we would have to leave the Ohio Union and at which point the resolution would be tabled indefinitely and votes not cast.*)
- xxxiii. *Tomer Elias*: I'm a fourth-year student here studying economics. I want to talk as someone who lived in Israel entire life gone through conflict dealt with specifics. One issue for me is that it's being compared to apartheid in its supposed human rights violations, and when I read thought a lot of the info doesn't address real issue or broader conflict. It takes legal points and applies them to the entire global human rights movement that we don't have enough info on. This is not the forum for that. We don't have the time to do that. This does in many ways deal with the Israel-Palestine conflict. I was growing up in Israel and experiencing those conflicts, and the purpose of those checkpoints is to protect people. About 10 years ago, a wave of terrorism caused 10,000 Israelis deaths by suicide bombings. After instating the checkpoints, the number dropped from a few every week to about zero. So you have a thousand dying over five years to almost none dying from suicide bombings. This is something the resolution does not discuss. It takes the conflict into one specific thing and this is something the resolution does not discuss. We all want to have a



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feeling of being heard, I felt two weeks ago that my voice wasn't being heard and I wasn't able to tell my side of the conflict and it's hard when 20 student organizations are giving definitions about Israel when Israel is going for a two-state solution in which we can thrive together. I believe you should vote no because it's really important to not make a decision on a resolution that is one sided and not addressing both sides of the conflict. It's important to have dialogue and bring speakers and really speak at what we can do to bring people together and speak to each other. Israel and Pales don't really have a chance to learn from and speak to one another. They can learn from us that we are capable of speaking and talking to one another when they are lost in a conflict in which we don't know when it will end.

xxxiv. *Waidelich:* We will have to entertain a 15-minute recess. This room is not ours starting at 11 pm. We will have to move to the Cartoon Room and leave by 10:30 pm. We have to go through a procedure to move rooms and entertain this procedure.

xxxv. Motion for a 15 minute recess PASSED. Until 10:33 pm.

xxxvi. *Michael Frank for Mikey Branum for Megan Howard at 10:34 pm.*

xxxvii. *Shaffer:* What would happen if this went until midnight, when this building closes?

xxxviii. *Glass:* Tabled, my recommendation and my hope is that it comes to a vote. The procedure would be to lay it on the table, postponed definitely or indefinitely, or adjournment that would end discussion would kill resolution at the stand. We'll check that.

xxxix. *Carla Gracia,8 for Paige Bennett at 10:35 pm.*

xl. Role call vote after recess.

xli. *Glass:* Good evening in effort to remain impartial serving chair as parliamentarian, I am not speaking on my opinion, but I encourage all to vote in duty to your constituents. I hope that whatever you vote it's because you truly believe in your heart that you're representing your constituents to the best of your abilities. I will not accept the idea that my vote should be swayed upon any elected official of the US government. Whatever your opinion on tonight is, I hope you're not voting because some congressmen or some elected official whose job is to represent you is saying. I will not be voted based on that. I will be voting for my students and my constituents. It doesn't matter who I voted for what party they're from I'm not going to listen to some congressmen or their letter and that should not affect your vote. I would rec that we reach a consensus tonight we've had enough discussion. As we're nearing stroke of midnight let's vote one way or another.

xlii. *Kaczmarek:* Thank everyone here still and thank you for everyone here who emailed us. OSU Divest and Project Israel for hosting us. Yield time to Robyn Frum.

xliii. *Robyn Frum.6:* I am a senior studying microbiology and I am also a member of Mount Leadership Society. I live off campus. I want to start by pointing out some



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quotes. In 2013, Dr. Drake stated that BDS narrows our worldview and stifles intellectual exchange central to our mission. The Human Rights Campaign united in fighting against BDS to all college students who've encountered this and stated I hope you stay strong. Joe Biden continue to go against calls in US and abroad. For centuries Jews were outcast everywhere. It's a complex and difficult issue. That's what it is. This resolution silences heartache and broken homes that Israelis experience. Not looking at both nuances does nothing to promote peace or justice. Is it just to not hold both sides accountable? No. It serves to breed conflict. I want to talk about Sbarro, the pizza chain. One day I went to eat at Sbarro in Israel. It's a good thing that we decided to eat there at that moment because shortly thereafter that Sbarro was bombed. It's so painful to think that I could've been a victim of that attack had I gone to get a slice of pizza a little bit later. This is conveniently omitted from the resolution. Corrupt leadership from the Palestinian Authority paid them to glorify killings of Israelis, which are heinous occurrences. That's racism and evil. It has caused hundreds of thousands of death from both sides. There's been heartache, torment, death, and destruction. The writers of this can keep using justice and other reasons as much as they want, but I don't think they know what they mean. To treat the democratic state who's our only ally in the Middle East like this is morally reprehensible. Please either vote no or abstain. I yield my time back to Senator Kaczmarek.

xliv. Motion to suspend the right to yield to members of the general public. PASSED with 30-13-2.

- xlvi. *Glass*: In regards to the parliamentary decision that was just made, it was because we want this to come to a vote tonight. Members of the GA have had two weeks and members of the public have had that time to contact and meet with their representatives as well.
- xlvi. *Mubarak*: Will I be able to yield time to sponsoring coalition behind this resolution?
- xlvii. *Waidelich*: No. You may only yield to other members of the General Assembly.
- xlviii. *Yacoub*: Will those sponsoring from OSU Divest will they be able to come alternate for us?
- xlix. *Waidelich*: The senator you're an alternate for has to agree.
1. *Buss*: I wanted to say something similar to what Senator Glass said about not letting congressional representatives affect our opinions tonight. This vote is ours, we know our campus and they do not. I'm echoing that sentiment. This is our vote. I would encourage you to not vote based on what other congressmen would vote. If you know me well, I know this is a grand privilege to represent students. As director of Diversity and Inclusion, I have to think a lot about what that means. Especially in this body, because I don't have specific constituents, it's groups that are in some way marginalized on this campus that fall under my voice. I would argue that both sides of this issue fall under that jurisdiction. This has been a very hard decision. I've been



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reached out to by both sides of this telling me I owe them their vote based on my title and position. I was going to yield before the motion passed and ask both sides to explain how I could support or deny this resolution and honestly wholeheartedly represent all students in this. I was going to yield to Senator Mubarak before, but I won't because there won't be a student representative from the other side. I don't know how I'm voting. I'm still up in the air, but I want to be very clear that no matter how I vote I am still a champion for you, no matter what.

- li. *Singh*: I support more transparency in university finance and investments.
- lii. *Mubarak*: Thank everyone that came out tonight. I had a constituent that contacted me only one that contacted me Jewish student that wanted me to read a statement that supported OSU Divest but I won't provide her name because she didn't want to be seen as a self-hating Jew: "Let me preface this by saying that the security of the state of Israel is a cause near and dear to my heart. I realize that much of the greater Jewish community I am a proud part of holds a strong pro-Israel stance, and a lot of the opposition to this bill stems from fear. The reason I write this statement today is because I argue that my support of Israel and my support for OSU Divest come from the same place—a desire for dignity, quality of life, and well-being that both the Israeli and Palestinian people that are required if any sort of peace talks are to happen. The fact of the matter is, many of my fellow Jewish students fear this bill because we fear the persecution our people have faced for as long as the Torah goes back. I share these fears and do not invalidate them at all, however, after carefully reading the resolution, I have yet to find a single instance of anti-Semitism or delegitimization of Israel. This bill is not BDS, it is not threatening to Israel's security, and it is not targeting me as a Jew. This bill is simple, well-intended, and necessary—divestment specifically from American/British companies that contribute to the injustices that the Israeli government perpetuates in the West Bank. Meanwhile, Israel's occupation of the West Bank tangibly and directly harms innocent Palestinians. The very premise of the occupation is absurd. Firstly, we need to understand what the Palestinians are so angry about on a basic level: the area is divided into three regions: A, B and C. Area C comprises a full two-thirds of West Bank land, yet Israel maintains full civil and military control, ensuring that only 1% of this zone is allowed to be used by Palestinians. As a result, nearly 3 million people are forced to live in zones A and B, while the mere 500,000 Israeli settlers enjoy the vast expanses and infrastructure of Zone C, which is twice as large as areas A and B combined. By preventing any semblance of an infrastructure in the West Bank from forming, not only is this dehumanizing and oppressive to Palestinians, but it tarnishes the reputation of Israel's democracy on an international stage. Making peace with Palestinians should be the first and foremost goal. However, as settlements have expanded into the West Bank, Palestinians lives are devastated in the name of our state's security. It's time to stop pretending that this doesn't



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completely undermine the peace process. The bottom line is, if my Judaism has taught me anything, it is that nothing is more sacred than life. Continuing to invest in HP, Caterpillar, and G4S is condoning human rights violations, which not only goes against my religion but threatens the democratic nature of the Jewish nation. If Israel can't conduct relations with Palestinians in a diplomatic fashion, and must resort to military force against innocent people, how can we call it democracy? Violence and hatred only encourage retaliatory violence and hatred. It is for these reasons that the cycle must be broken. It is for these reasons that I urge the OSU community, especially my fellow Jewish people, to try to empathize with the Palestinian people, and understand their efforts to peacefully protest injustice, rather than write off every single grievance as anti-Semitism. It is for these reasons that I fully support OSU Divest." Clarifying on a few comments that I heard senators say today that if this resolution passes, the university will not tell us whether they divested or not. When UC passed it they didn't know what they were invested in. Their office of investment actually told them. Passing this can increase transparency from the OSU Office of Investments. I heard a lot of senators last General Assembly session suggest that I make the resolution more specific and not as broad, and I talked with my fellow senators in town hall I attended and they agreed with these amendments. First grammatical amendments which I do not think should come to a vote. They will be friendly amendments.

- liii. *Bock*: Don't they not have to be voted on since they're friendly?
- liv. *Waidelich*: If they change the content of the resolution they cannot be taken as friendly.
- lv. *Honaker*: How many are left on the speaker's list?
- lvi. *Waidelich*: 15.
- lvii. *Honaker*: Can anyone make a motion or only the current person on the speaker's list?
- lviii. *Glass*: Anyone can make that motion.
- lix. *Mubarak*: Friendly amendment to line 11 cross out OSU in parentheses. Line 22 comma after privacy. Shout out to Senator Warnimont for catching all these errors. Line 34 remove the word movement. Take out letter s in word detentions in line 37. Add letter n right before or in line 68 for it to say nor rather than or. Change OSU to The Ohio State University in line 98. To make the title of the resolution more specific so that it's not targeting all companies complicit in human rights, I'd like to change it to "A Resolution to Support The Ohio State University's Divestment and/or Refrain from Future Investments in Caterpillar Inc., G4S, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and HP Inc" (unfriendly amendment since it changes the content of the resolution). We don't know whether both are involved in Human rights violations based off our research, so we included both.
- lx. *Mattamanna*: Can we explain what the process is?



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- lxi. *Waidelich*: All legislation passed through General Assembly is null and void at the end of that General Assembly's term, which is after inauguration in two weeks.
- lxii. *Glass*: The title cannot be amended based on Robert's Rules. If this resolution passes, it can be brought up again for discussion for the title, but that's the only way to amend the title.
- lxiii. *Waidelich*: We will not be able to discuss the title change.
- lxiv. *Mubarak*: Take out last two Let It Further Be Resolved clauses (lines 103-112). (Requires 1/3 official second aka 15 senators to be amended).
- lxv. *Belfiglio*: Are you planning to propose more amendments tonight for this bill?
- lxvi. *Mubarak*: No.
- lxvii. *Cramer*: Can you speak to why you're striking these?
- lxviii. *Mubarak*: Some senators suggested taking these two out because they weren't sure what the resolution was asking for and that's a valid point. I'm willing to work with other senators in the future to establish more transparency.
- lxix. MOVED INTO DISCUSSION on amendment to this resolution and not the resolution itself.**
- lxx. *Kerbel*: I think the motion to strike out lines 108-112 speaking on the systematic oppression of all groups of people, we need to make sure it doesn't systematically oppress other groups of people. I don't see the point of passing this if we're allowing for the systematic oppression of people.
- lxxi. *Cramer*: I'm not a fan of this and I'd be hesitant to strike those two clauses given what we've seen is the new title after this. I would urge you to think about striking these two lines.
- lxxii. *Bock*: I think lines 103-106 don't harm the message of the resolution. I think that leaving lines 103-106, the resolution can still stand and still be true.
- lxxiii. *Warnimont*: I like having those clauses there so I support keeping them in.
- lxxiv. *Yacoub*: A lot of people argued at last General Assembly that they would support the resolution if those two were stricken since those last clauses are general versus the other specific clauses and the reason why I'm involved in OSU Divest and the reason why OSU Divest included these are for transparency in the future but a lot of senators wanted them stricken at the last GA and that's why we're striking them.
- lxxv. *Buss*: I was referenced and I am director of Diversity & Inclusion. If Senator Mubarak believes that to not only appease the senators that asked for a more pointed resolution, but also create a more pointed resolution—if he believes that this clause is not necessary because they are targeting these three specific companies, I don't believe lines 108-112 are necessary but I think the question is the nature of the resolution. Are we talking about 3 companies or are we talking about all companies? Lines 108 through 112 are not necessary. I don't think it's harmful to be in there, but I think this is up to Senator Mubarak to decide.



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- lxxvi. *Luther*: I don't think either way this changes very much in the resolution and I think our original opinions still stand so I'm going to call the question. (Ending speaker's list before this comes to a vote).
- lxxvii. *Weisman*: Doesn't this change the whole sentiment behind it? It goes to show that this resolution targets people of a specific national origin.
- lxxviii. *Cramer*: I strongly urge you to recognize what we're doing here in striking these lines given what the newly proposed title is going to say.
- lxxix. Amendment to strike last two Let It Further Be Resolved clauses from 48-R-43 FAILED.**
- lxxx. *Mubarak*: I said previously that there are no other amendments, but something came up and I would like to change line 100 so it'll be "withholdings in Caterpillar, G4S, and HP and other companies" instead. You can take out "the aforementioned companies."
- lxxxi. *Waidelich*: Motion is to add the bold and to strike the highlighted blue. (*Notes from the Secretary: A 1/3 second is required for the motion to move forward.*)
- lxxxii. **Motion to move into discussion PASSED.** (*Notes from the Secretary: After a motion to move into discussion is approved by the chamber, we need to finish the speaker's list created prior to the vote.*)
- lxxxiii. *Cramer*: How are we defining violations of human rights in this?
- lxxxiv. *Waidelich*: That is not germane to this discussion on the motion.
- lxxxv. *Mubarak*: Since we weren't allowed to amend the title, right now the title says "in corporations complicit in human rights violations" so I couldn't change it. A senator suggested it during town hall and we thought it would be a good idea to add it so it could reflect the title.
- lxxxvi. *Frank*: If Senator Mubarak believes this is the right thing to do, I think we should move forward with it and call the question because we do not have time for this.
- lxxxvii. *Cramer*: I think we're doing a great disservice to the room if we just call the question. We're talking about every investment Ohio State has. We are saying that anyone can call anything a human rights violation and we are really opening up a can of worms.
- lxxxviii. *Kahn*: I think this is significant and it's a step in the right direction.
- lxxxix. *Harper*: What Frank said.
- xc. Motion to call the question on the amendment.**
- lxxci. *Cramer*: (Questioned parliamentary procedure directed by Glass.)
- lxxcii. *Glass*: No, it doesn't. Look up the amendments under Robert's Rules of Order.
- lxxciii. *Bock as proxy for Ferzacca as he leaves for the restroom.*
- lxxciv. Motion for amendment PASSED.**
- lxxcv. *Honaker*: Can I motion for speaking limit? (*Notes from the Secretary: Instating a speaking limit requires a 2/3 majority of members in room to vote to do so.*)



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xcvi. Mubarak: I would like to address the importance of this resolution and give a little perspective as to what exactly we are here for today. This resolution is part of a historic moment here at OSU, where students representing diverse identities, issues, and experiences are heeding the call to cease our unethical complicity in the violation of human rights. Our friends at schools across the nation can attest through personal experience that these resolutions have truly benefited their campuses, creating more inclusive discussions that encourage dialogue among our many constituents. This resolution calls for nothing more than consensus with regards to respecting human rights, which is something that is absolutely necessary in order for there to be any productive dialogue. I greatly empathize with the pressures you are experiencing, but I believe it is at these moments that we define our leadership and have full faith in the power of collective student action. You have inherited a legacy of student activism. A lot of us may not have been afforded the opportunity to be here today had it not been for those who sought justice before us. We must honor this legacy through our current commitment to a University rooted in justice and dignity. Through generations, students just like you have been confronted with issues that have often been labeled “controversial” and even in the face of powerful lobbying and opposition have fought for justice. As a proud Buckeye and member of this academic year’s Undergraduate Student Government, I know that we can do better. And since we can, there is no excuse not to. We heard the Israeli perspective on the issue, we heard the Palestinian perspective, we heard from Jewish students both in favor and in opposition of this initiative, we’ve heard the opinions of four state legislatures. I urge you to base your decision on the principles the resolution itself is built on, which is respect for human rights and genuine neutrality. All it is asking for is for USG to support the withdrawal of investments from 3 corporations: two are American and one is British. Nowhere in the resolution does it target Israel as a nation, nowhere in the resolution does it target the Israeli people or Jewish community, nowhere in the resolution is it asking for boycotting, divesting sanctioning Israel. All these accusations have brought up over and over again these past two weeks, none of which apply to resolution or the coalition of students who have worked to bring it where it is today. Again, please base your decision on the principles the resolution itself is built on, which is respect for human rights and genuine neutrality. Thank you.

xcvii. Weisman: Fellow Senators, I come to you tonight in an effort to address a few arguments that have been made over the past couple of weeks. Firstly, I want to make clear that I and everyone else in this room care deeply about human rights, dignity, and well-being. While the sponsor claims that this resolution is about human rights, the matter could not be further from the truth. No matter what you hear tonight, weather you are for or against, the fact is... this resolution is focused on directly targeting Israel as part of a broader national movement known as BDS.



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The fact that no one could give legitimate human rights violations by these companies anywhere else but Israel should speak volumes to everyone here. We cannot be manipulated by the play on words and double speak that has been used in the past couple of weeks. Now the argument made that “we must start somewhere” is one that does not take into account the extreme complexities of the conflict. In a region where human rights abuses run rampant, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, and the companies who do business there have created one of the most open, inclusive, and innovative environments in the entire world. Companies such as Caterpillar even employ Palestinians in the West Bank. In addition, the HP face identification system mentioned in the resolution was implemented as a form of protection after hundreds of Israelis were killed during Palestinian uprisings in the early 2000s. Fellow senators, the picture is not as simple as the sponsor would have you believe. While I applaud you all for researching and spending time speaking to constituents, I have been studying this issue for over 15 years and still cannot claim a solid understanding of the matter. I would encourage you not to make such a rash judgment call on one of the most complex foreign policy issues of our time. Secondly, I need to address the intimidation that has been targeted toward members of USG and its senators to support this legislation. Apparently, by rejecting it, we would not be listening to the diverse and minority voices. I come to you now telling you that there is a group just as diverse, just as varied in opinions that wholeheartedly do not support divesting from these companies. Seeing supporters of this resolution claim a monopoly on diversity as if only those who support them truly share the minority voice has been quite disheartening. I am truly saddened by those that would use such words as diversity and human rights to further a very narrow-minded, one-sided political agenda rather than come together and work toward efforts of peace. Thirdly, I need to address the statement made how divesting from these three companies would have no actual impact on our community. As mentioned before, Caterpillar employs over 1100 residents of Ohio and offers over \$1,000,000 in scholarships to OSU students. Hewlett Packard also provides \$900k to select universities, OSU being one of them, for research grants. The argument that these companies will continue to invest in our community once we decide to divest from them is illogical and totally ignores the facts of prior divestment accounts. In addition to negatively impacting our own environment, this resolution will send a strong message that could in fact negatively impact Palestinians themselves. I would like to discuss specifically the divestment of Caterpillar. I would like to point out a small little fact that seems to have been lost in this discussion. The fact is, there exists two Caterpillar dealerships, one in the Gaza Strip and one in the city of Ramallah, in the West bank. Both of these dealerships are run by Palestinians and support the Palestinian people. Furthermore, CAT construction equipment has been used by Palestinians for decades to build



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infrastructure, homes, hospitals and schools within the West Bank. Previous examples of divestment cases, such as those targeted toward Israeli company SodaStream led to the closing of their manufacturing plant in the West Bank and the loss of over 500 Palestinian jobs. With that, I ask this chamber: who are we helping by passing this resolution? We not only risk our own job security, academic opportunities, and scholarship programs, but send a strong message that could in fact greatly harm those that the sponsor claims he is trying to protect. I will now motion to call the question. (*Notes from the Secretary: This would cap the speaker's list and allow the speaker's list to run out, and begin the voting process.*)

- xcviii. Honaker:* Thank everyone for being here. I wanted to address what has been going on the past two weeks. If we do vote, if we don't vote, if we vote yes, if we vote no, everyone here has probably had a bad thought towards people on the other side of the issue. All senators here are for sure committed. We wouldn't be here at 11:39 pm on a Wednesday night if we weren't. I encourage you to not abstain. Think about how this resolution will be used. Not one resolution passed through student governments across the nation hasn't been used by the greater BDS campaign. Think about the national and international PR campaign, and think if you're comfortable with putting your name on it. Think about whether it's put together enough. Think about it. That's all I have to say.
- xcix. Bodey:* About 2 months ago, Senator Mubarak came to me asking about a divestment resolution. At the time, I didn't know enough to commit to a co-sponsorship or to even verbally support the bill, but—and this is important—ignorance is never a reason for a fellow senator to avoid a vote. Leading up to tonight, I have met with students of OSU Divest, Buckeyes for Israel, and unaffiliated students. This resolution addresses an incredibly complex topic, one that I have researched extensively thanks to the help of students of both groups. I attended both town halls, met both groups for coffee, and fielded endless emails. OSU Divest is an incredible student group with an admirable mission. They are trying to bring to light an issue that dives deep into their hearts and affects their communities so deeply. I've been touched by their efforts and they have brought to my attention an incredible issue we have in Undergraduate Student Government—and that is proportional representation of Muslim students in our General Assembly. Buckeyes for Israel is another incredible student group that also has great intentions. They create a safe space for Jewish students on our campus. Buckeyes for Israel also brings forward concerns of their community. These students also face oppression as Jews on our campus. As this debate has gone on, I have seen emotions run high, and students pin themselves against each other. Yesterday at the Buckeyes for Israel town hall, a student who was a member of OSU Divest began to ask a question to the panelist. The question was respectful and well thought out. However, with anger and intolerance, a Buckeyes for Israel student, unfortunately someone permitted to



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alternate in this body, interrupted his fellow student; an act that was incredibly disrespectful and showed just how intolerant this discussion was. Yet today, I saw offensive, anti-Semitic, and charged comments towards Jewish students on our campus from members of OSU Divest. More over, even my fellow senators began to divide against each other. Something I just cannot accept. After all of this, one thing has become clear to me. Resolutions such as this one provide no place for productive dialogue. Regardless of how this resolution is written or fed to senators, it creates a blatant separation of the student body. There was an op-ed written in the Lantern that suggested that Senators pick and choose who they represent. I can honestly say that after this discussion over the last few weeks, I've reached the conclusion that USG needs to do a better job in creating consensus. As a senator, it is my job to create consensus and represent every one of my constituents. It is the job of my fellow Senators to create consensus, not cross-examine the public or doubt the intentions of students who come to plead to you. This resolution does not create consensus. It separates my constituents. USG, Buckeyes for Israel, and OSU Divest need to work together to build up both the communities these students hold so dear here on campus. This dialogue has not been a safe space. Students on both sides have been targeted. We heard tonight in public forum that Muslim and Jewish students do not feel safe at Ohio State, and that should be a call to action for this chamber. Student Activity Fee funds should be used for town halls, moderated discussions, and other programs to ease this tension. Furthermore, the Undergraduate Student Government should take actions to gain access to financial investment records to all Ohio State investments to know where tuition dollars are going. I will never support a resolution that pits students against each other. Voting yes or no pits students against each other. I will be abstaining from this vote. Everyone in this room knows how they're going to vote, and time is going to expire very soon. Again, I'm here to create consensus not only among students at large, but also among my fellow senators. Thank you.

- c. *Yacoub*: Thank everybody who came out today I value both sides but two weeks ago at the General Assembly meeting the opposition of this resolution spoke on behalf of the resolution without reading it and that speaks volumes. They kept saying how it's anti-Israel and anti-Semitic and this argument keeps going back to the resolution and the contents. Sarah mentioned earlier clauses that it doesn't aim to condemn any country or community of people. That in itself um completely like debunks the arguments against it because it says it's not anti-Israel, it's not condemning Israel, or trying to figure out a solution for the occupation but it is simply about human rights at the end of the day. Another argument that I would like to cite is there's over 25 organizations that signed onto this and they are diverse organizations that represent a large, large number of constituents on this campus while the opportunity has only two groups which are Buckeyes for Israel and Hillel there



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haven't been endorsements against this so I don't understand where senators are getting this. I also want to comment on how on Monday and Tuesday OSU Divest had a town hall and there was another on Tuesday. Greek life has chapter on Monday nights so that's why we had an option for Monday and Tuesday while the anti-divestment resolution they had one on Tuesday as well an hour after ours and the fact that four senators were between those two the town hall only four senators present on Monday and more than ten on Tuesday.

- ci. Waidelich:* You cannot attack what senators were present or not present at a town hall. We are also on a time constraint so please continue.
- cii. Yacoub:* That was their opportunity to hear from constituents but the numbers show. So personally these corporations have affected me personally. As a Palestinian-American I am born in America the fact that in 1947 my dad's village was destroyed it was destroyed in front of their eyes while people were still in buildings and my dad's villages which is right next to Tel Aviv which is now in Proper Israel and for people to talk about how their feelings are being hurt but my family's history has been directly affected by these corporations and the history was basically covered and the ruins there is now a settlement on top of the ruins in my dad's village and at the end of the day I know a lot of you personally and many of you spoke as Palestinians and people of color these companies have aided in harming our human rights and violations of that and that goes back to the resolution itself and that there's no connection with Israel and BDS, it has nothing to do with this resolution, it's proven that they did not actually read this resolution so at the end of the day I advise all of the senators to read this resolution and vote on your feelings about the resolution and how the underlying message is not political and not divisive and it's about human rights.
- ciii. 9 minutes left.*
- civ. Glass:* I'm going to speak on the parliamentary explanation I mentioned before of calling the previous question in this chamber. There is a way through Robert's Rules to force an end to the debate which requires a 2/3 vote and that will force a vote on this resolution considering there's 9 minutes left to vote and I believe there will be questions on how voting happens.
- cv. Cramer:* Motion to call the orders of the day which will force Waidelich to decide to vote on the resolution or table.
- cvi. Glass:* I would recommend voting to end debate. That will give members of the chamber the agency to decide on whether or not vote.
- cvii. Waidelich:* The motion's been called and it's at my discretion that we will do a secret vote.
- cviii. Glass:* I have to speak as the Parliamentarian against that but I can read an excerpt of Robert's Rules.



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cix. Waidelich: Our standing rules supersede the Robert's Rules. It's my discretion to have a secret ballot.

cx. Glass: I'm going to explain what voting aye and nay, and abstaining mean. Voting aye means that you support this resolution. Voting nay means that you do not support this resolution. Abstaining means that you are not voting yes or no to this resolution. There are 45 voting members present. That requires 23 yes votes to pass with a simple majority. *(Current time 11:56 pm.) (Note from the Secretary: The voting method was at the discretion of the chair. With 4 minutes left in the General Assembly session, had we done a role call vote as we sometimes do, we would run out of time, had to leave the chamber, and not complete the vote. The resolution would in effect be tabled indefinitely.)*

cxii. 48-R-43 FAILED with 9-21-15.

cxii. Meeting was adjourned at midnight, when the Ohio Union officially closed.

VII. New Business

- a. 48-R-44 *A Resolution to Support the Increased Use of Reusable Coffee Cups on Campus*
- b. 48-R-45 *A Resolution to Support the Creation of a Makerspace at The Ohio State University's Columbus Campus*

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment