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Statement on 48-R-43

COLUMBUS, OH -- The General Assembly of the Undergraduate Student Government is comprised of elected senators from academic and living areas, and 7 appointed directors from the executive branch. This statement is to serve as a summary of the two General Assembly meetings regarding 48-R-43 and of the 90 pages of minutes, which can be found in full on the Undergraduate Student Government [website](#).

On March 9th, 2016 a resolution titled [A Resolution to Support the Withdrawal of OSU's Investments in Corporations Complicit in Human Rights Violations](#) was submitted directly to the floor as New Business during USG's General Assembly meeting. Resolutions are typically submitted to the Steering Committee for review, but a pathway to submitting resolutions to the floor is outlined in the [General Assembly Standing Rules](#). The body can choose whether to hear the resolution or not based on the timeliness of the legislation. A vote from the body was cast in favor of reviewing resolution 48-R-43 that night in General Assembly, followed by a 10 minute recess for senators to read the resolution.

The resolution was introduced by the main sponsor, and then supported by thirteen members of the public that spoke during the resolution's introduction. After the resolution was introduced, members of the General Assembly were able to ask the sponsor questions about the resolution, and then debate whether the resolution should pass. Many members of the public were in attendance during the March 9th meeting to both support and oppose the passing of the resolution. Many senators wanted more time to research the topic and to reach out to their constituents, and voted to table the resolution by a vote of 19-15-1. The resolution was placed on the next General Assembly agenda on March 23rd.

During the two weeks between the meetings, there were newspaper articles, social media campaigns, and town halls, both in support of and opposition to 48-R-43. In the March 23rd meeting, forty-seven members spoke during the Open Forum for Public section of the agenda, and a divide in student opinion on this matter was clear. During Old Business, a motion to bring 48-R-43 off of the table from the last meeting passed, and the speaker's list began where it left off at the last meeting. There were two motions to amend the resolution; one failed and one passed. After a five and a half hour meeting on the 23rd, the resolution was voted on with 9 ayes, 21 nays, and 15 abstentions.

It is vital for students of different perspectives to learn from each other, which is a fundamental part of Ohio State's mission as a university. Undergraduate Student Government hopes to partner with campus departments to hold open dialogues over the next year to bridge a better understanding of differing student opinion at Ohio State, while continuing the advocacy for a safe and supportive campus for all undergraduate students.

The General Assembly meets and reviews legislation every Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Ohio Union Senate Chamber. All items pertaining to the General Assembly can be found on our [website](#), and all meetings are open to the public.