ASUSF Urges a University-wide Effort to Divest from Fossil Fuels

Resolution 14-15-02

Whereas: The University of San Francisco’s involvement with unsustainable investments in fossil fuels is unknown; and

Whereas: The University has a vision “to educate leaders with a global perspective who will fashion a more humane and just world;” and

Whereas: The University has the core values of “social responsibility in fulfilling the university’s mission to create, communicate, and apply knowledge to a world shared by all people and held in trust for future generations” and “the full, integral development of each person and all persons, with the belief that no individual or group may rightfully prosper at the expense of others;” and

Whereas: Investment in fossil fuels directly contributes to global problems including the average temperature of the planet rising 1.44 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century, and the world’s oceans becoming 30% more acidic since humans have begun burning fossil fuels; and

Whereas: The United States Department of Defense has begun to view global climate change as a threat to national security, stating that “The impacts of climate change may cause instability in other countries by impairing access to food and water, damaging infrastructure, spreading disease, uprooting and displacing large numbers of people, compelling mass migration, interrupting commercial activity, or restricting electricity availability;” and

Whereas: The global marginalized communities face significant peril relating to famine, disease, and natural disaster when exposed to global climate change and harsh working conditions; and

Whereas: Georgetown University, a leading Jesuit institution, realizes the importance and global impact of divestment and is making efforts towards university divestment from fossil fuels, but such efforts have not yet been made by the University of San Francisco; and
Whereas: The University has taken significant efforts towards developing sustainability practices, including building bike racks, water bottle filling stations, solar panels on the residence halls, hiring Eco-Educators, and utilizing compostable materials in the cafeteria; and

Whereas: The Associate Students of the University of San Francisco have advocated to develop a culture of sustainability at the University including developing a Vice President of Sustainability, distributing reusable water bottles, advocating for a covered bike structure, coordinating events such as Bike Repair Days and Earth Day; and

Whereas: The Associated Students understand that the University needs a successful investment portfolio to provide the best education for its students, but also sees that the University’s investment in fossil fuels is adding to the continuous cycle of profit for the large fossil fuel companies at the expense of the world which is contradictory to the University’s mission and values of social justice; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate, representing all the undergraduate students of the University: That the University seeks socially responsible investment alternatives and divest from fossil fuels to align with its mission, vision, and values and to be the leader in sustainability initiatives setting precedent for other universities; furthermore, be it

Resolved: That the University form a Divestment Taskforce comprised of knowledgeable faculty, staff, and students from various departments on campus to propose a gradual divestment timeline, research investment alternatives, and ensure University divestment from fossil fuels; furthermore, be it

Resolved: That the University provides insight into the current status of its investment portfolio to the Divestment Taskforce to allow for transparency, education, and corrective action to take place.

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References available upon request

Signed on this day, (insert date)

Eva Long