

October 15, 2019

- ACCRIP: moral responsibility, consider requests of social harm in University investments, divestment
- Had a community forum last week
- Want to change the nature of this committee into an **advisory committee** on University resource management
 - Expand to policies on gift acceptances and purchases
 - Consider requests from President and all other members on issues of social harm
 - Proposal to reduce membership from 3 faculty, 2 undergraduate, 3 alumni, 2 graduate, 2 staff members to **2 faculty, 1 undergraduate, 2 alumni, 2 graduate, 2 staff**
- Resolved to form a working/advisory group to discuss the new charge to this committee, how to implement membership changes
- In the meantime, ACCRIP will continue to function until a new committee is established, probably until end of 2019-2020 academic year
- Changes will go through the FEC and whole faculty for debate/amendment/approval

Divest proposal:

- Can make a recommendation to administration to open the conversation up to the Brown community (faculty, staff forums)
- First look at rationale behind divestment
 - Is the Israeli occupation of Palestine significant enough to impact our investment choices
 - **Does this constitute social harm**
- Clear assessment of the proposal - look into details of each of the companies, give justification either to divest or not
- Investment office rep: Must define **what is divest**
 - Brown does not hold many stocks directly
 - Mostly held through indices
- Harder for ACCRIP committee to decide how exactly to implement - leave it up to investment office to understand technical weeds
 - But ACCRIP must understand that whatever recommendation they make, it must be feasible
- Look at past precedent (tobacco, Sudan) for implementation
 - Make our scope just **direct investments**

Undergraduate voices:

- Rationale on divestment
- Divest from companies who:
 - Provide products/services contributing to maintenance of Israeli military occupation of Gaza and West Bank
 - Provide products/service to maintenance/expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories
 - Establish facilities/operations in Israeli settlements
 - Provide products/services that contribute to maintenance of the Separation wall

- Provide products/services that contribute to violent acts against Palestine citizens
- Why is this social harm?
 - Israeli settlements are in direct violation of international human rights law
 - Violates Geneva Convention and UN resolutions
 - Companies profit off home upheavals, construction of Separation wall, sales of settlement properties, etc
 - Perpetuates home demolition, construction of Separation wall, violence against civilians & children

Argument against divestment:

- Will create a Powerpoint to be presented at the next ACCRIP meeting
- Pointed out only 20% of entire student body voted to divest

Next steps:

- Need to look more into actual suffering of Palestinian civilians, more than just violation of international law
 - A student from Palestine has offered to talk about her experiences
- Look at anti-divestment perspective
 - Will present a Powerpoint next meeting
- Anti-Semitism vs not
 - People in the Jewish community who think it is anit-Semitic
 - Hear perspectives on that