For Immediate Release
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UGBC Passes Divestment Resolution

The Undergraduate Government of Boston College (UGBC) has officially passed a resolution 15-2 calling on Boston College to divest its endowment from fossil fuels. The resolution is also a call for increased transparency, climate action, and student and faculty input in regards to endowment investments.

Boston College makes investments with its more than $2.2 billion endowment in order to fund annual operations. The resolution includes freezing any new investments by Boston College in companies whose main product or service involves fossil fuels as well as the development of a plan to divest all current investments in such companies. In order to both increase and demonstrate the economic opportunities of a green economy, divested money should be invested in companies with a renewable or sustainable focus.

The resolution follows a more than 5 year effort by students calling on Boston College to evaluate its investments in the context of its Jesuit values, and is reminiscent of efforts to divest from South Africa due to apartheid in the 1980s. A similar resolution to the one passed today was approved by UGBC in a vote of 17-1 in 2013, but was later invalidated by the university due to controversy over voting procedures.

Climate Justice of Boston College (CJBC) is thrilled with UGBC's decision today and would like to thank Ellen O'Brien and the sustainability committee of UGBC for their development of the resolution and continued support of this effort. The full text of the resolution can be found here.

Today is an important day in the university's more than 150 year history as well as in the fight for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. Divestment will be a clear acknowledgement of the climate crisis happening at present and BC's commitment to fight it.

CJBC looks forward to working with UGBC, the administration, and the Board of Trustees to evaluate the most efficient and effective approaches the university can take, while continuing to educate students and faculty about divestment and its importance.

As it has been, CJBC continues to extend an invitation to meet with the Board and any members of the administration, along with members of the greater Boston College community, in order to further discuss divestment.

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