



**Wayne State University  
Student Senate**  
November 2nd, 2023

**Resolution 2324-03**

**SPONSOR:** Zaynah Jadallah (Member at Large); Ridaa Khan (Treasurer, CFPCA)

**CO-SPONSOR:**

**WHEREAS,** as financial contributors to Wayne State University, it is our responsibility to assess the ethics of Wayne State University's investments and,

**WHEREAS,** Wayne State University has no publicly available investment policies that are committed to social or responsible investing,

**WHEREAS,** our university's investment consultant, Strategic Investment Group, is capable of aligning our investments with our institutional values.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS,** Wayne State University is invested in companies that profit from wars and human rights violations. These companies include the world's largest weapon manufacturers, Boeing, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.<sup>23</sup>

**WHEREAS,** Wayne State University has committed in the past to creating meaningful engagement with society, and its mission is to "positively impact local and global community"<sup>4</sup> and,

**WHEREAS,** Wayne State University Board of Governors placed a tobacco-free mandate for its separately managed accounts. Wherefore the University has a divestment mechanism capable of being applied to other industries.<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS,** President Espy is committed to creating a more equitable society, and our academic community at Wayne State aspires to be a national model in this shared work. Wayne State's Social Justice Action Committee<sup>6</sup> was convened in June of 2020 and presented its findings, recommendations and action steps in March of 2021, which are being progressively implemented across campus with the support of the DEI Council.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.strategicgroup.com/our-approach/mission-alignment-and-manager-diversity>

<sup>2</sup> As of September 2022, Wayne State Cash Pool included more than \$9 million invested in a fund called SSgA S&P 500, which includes all these companies. See here: <https://academicsenate.wayne.edu/budget/bud-03-11-22-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://investigate.info/occupations>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wayne.edu/about/mission>

<sup>5</sup> [https://wayne.edu/board/orientation/fbo/wsuf\\_endowment\\_orientation\\_oct\\_2018\\_final.pdf](https://wayne.edu/board/orientation/fbo/wsuf_endowment_orientation_oct_2018_final.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://diversity.wayne.edu/social-justice-action-committee>

<sup>7</sup> <https://president.wayne.edu/committees>

**WHEREAS**, The Wayne State University Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mission “recognizes, acknowledges, and affirms the many ways in which people of different backgrounds, identities, and experiences contribute to a rich, vibrant campus community, and creates spaces—physical and virtual—where people see and feel included in and belonging to the Wayne State University community,”<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Governors of Wayne State University supported 'the October 2002 statement of the President and will not take action to divest the university of interests it may hold in companies that do business in Israel,' and claimed 'demanding that this university separate from companies linked to Israel or any other state in the region is not helpful to resolving the crisis in the Middle East,'<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2003, this student government passed a resolution calling on the Wayne State University Board of Governors to 'immediately divest in (de – invest) our University from Israel... including divestment from all companies doing business in Israel, and divestment from all stocks and pension funds which include those companies',<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in the 20 years since then, the conditions of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have significantly worsened, as the Israeli apartheid government<sup>11</sup> bombed Gaza in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, March 2018, May 2021, and August 2022,<sup>12</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2023, 'The Gaza Strip has sustained widespread destruction as the Israeli military has bombarded the besieged enclave of 2.3 million people for more than two weeks. Even its south, which Israel had declared a safe zone, has not been spared. Satellite imagery and photographs show entire neighborhoods have been leveled with many hospitals, schools, places of worship and homes damaged or destroyed by Israeli land, sea and air attacks'.<sup>13</sup>

**RESOLVED**, that we ask the Board of Governors to develop socially responsible criteria for our university's investments to ensure that we are not complicit in war profiteering and investing in companies that knowingly contribute to or benefit from human rights violations in Palestine and around the world.

**RESOLVED**, that we ask the Board for a report this semester on its progress/findings in divesting the University from its investments, including divestment from companies doing business in war and human rights violations.

**MOTION** to approve statement by: Senator \_\_\_\_\_ **AND SECONDED** by: Senator \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://diversity.wayne.edu/about/mission>

<sup>9</sup> <https://bog.wayne.edu/meetings/246/board0403-divestiture.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [https://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_EbIZBUj7TAg/S9GHXfkzyel/AAAAAAAAAq/38lsFh4ofi0/s1600/WSU.bmp](https://4.bp.blogspot.com/_EbIZBUj7TAg/S9GHXfkzyel/AAAAAAAAAq/38lsFh4ofi0/s1600/WSU.bmp)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/19/israeli-apartheid-threshold-crossed>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/7/timeline-israels-attacks-on-gaza-since-2005>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/23/where-are-gazas-neighbourhoods-destroyed-by-israel>

**AYE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstention** (counts as YES): \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION (PASSES/FAILS)**

**DATE:** 2 November 2023.

**Vote approved by:**



**PRESIDENT Hayden Johnson**



