

**From:** [REBECCA LYN HARDENBROOK](#)  
**To:** [Julio Cesar Facelli](#); [Jane Laird](#); [Robert Flores](#); [Paul Mogren](#); [Randy Dryer](#)  
**Subject:** Final Comments for the ad-hoc Committee Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:40:40 AM

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Hello!

Please find my final comments below. Again, I sincerely appreciate you all allowing me to present this to the Senate this week. It has been a wonderful year, and I have learned a great deal about university governance. I hope to see you all next year in my new capacity as Associate Director for Sustainability within ASUU (and possibly other roles, as well)!

I'd like to say a final thank you to all of you for taking the time to consider the very urgent and important issue of our endowment's investment into fossil fuel industries. I wanted to provide some final comments regarding the proposed ad-hoc committee and, hopefully, address some concerns brought up by Senator Hanna and others in our final meeting of this academic year.

- I believe that it is crucial that we develop a specific ad-hoc committee to perform the duties outlined in the provided proposal for a number of reasons, but one of the most persuasive to me is the complexity of the issue. The last iteration of these conversations, both formal and informal, of responsible investments of the endowment lasted over three years and required campus-wide input and investigation. Although I am hopeful that such a committee could complete a full assessment within a year, it is highly probable that such an assessment would need more time. Assigning these duties to the SACUSP would most likely overwhelm that committee and take away from its highly necessary work regarding other academic issues at the U. I worry that placing this burden on SACUSP would only make conversations and progress on sustainable investment difficult if not impossible in the coming years, the time in which we must take action.
- There has been some concern that it will be difficult to recruit folks to serve on this committee. People generally do not want to serve on standing committees because the tasks of those committees are not always directly related to what they are passionate about or work on. The issue of ensuring that our university's endowment is being responsibly invested is one that people inherently approach it with passion because of the implications for the university's image and also the impacts of investments on the environment. I believe that it will be easier to find people to serve on this committee because it will be something they are passionate about and its tasks will be more limited in scope.
- I mentioned earlier that simply the existence of such a committee would be beneficial to our STARS rating, but I was made aware that some folks may not know what a STARS rating is. STARS stands for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, and it is a transparent, self-reporting rating system by which higher educational institutions can measure their overall performance in sustainability. We are currently at a silver rating. Such a committee can help us progress to a gold or platinum rating, which although it is just a rating can place the U on the international stage with regards to sustainable education.
- If this body wishes to make it clear to the campus community and the world that we take the issue of climate change seriously, we must establish this ad-hoc committee. The work of this

body would, of course, allow for our university to lead and thrive in the future of academia; even more motivating is the message that would be echoed by establishing this committee is one of great leadership and accountability for our impacts on a more global scale. As a top-tier research institution, I believe it is our duty to innovate in all areas, including how we imagine investments and the energy sector at-large.

Again, you have my most sincere gratitude for considering this issue. I am looking forward to the outcome of this vote and hope, as mentioned by Professor Udell, that this body will strongly back whatever option is voted upon. Please know that we, the students at this university, will continue to fight for necessary change. However, we need collaboration between all campus partners (which very much includes faculty) to make the greatest possible strides to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Best wishes,  
Rebecca

**Rebecca Hardenbrook**

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