



## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

December 11, 2024

### Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by President Espy in the Student Center Ballroom. Attendees were asked to adhere to university policies, guidelines and instructions, and cautioned about disruption.

Secretary Miller called the roll. A quorum was present, with the following Board members in attendance:

Present: Governors Atkinson, Barnhill, Busuito, Gaffney, Kumar, Kelly, Land, and Stancato; President Espy

Also Present: Provost Clabo, Vice Presidents Gielczyk, Lindsey, Obasi, Poterala, Ripple, and Staebler, Chief of Staff Smiley, Senior Vice Provosts Baltes and Ezzeddine, Vice Provosts Cotton, Ellis, Gardner, and Interim Vice Provost Padgett, Associate Vice Presidents Davenport and Hafner, Assistant Vice President Phillips, Director Wallace, and Secretary Miller

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Espy asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes the following items:

##### *From the Board*

- A. Approval of the Official Proceedings of October 23, 2024
- B. Approval of the Official Proceedings of October 24, 2024

##### *From Academic & Student Affairs*

- C. Establishment of a New Program for PhD Integrative Neuroscience)

##### *Budget and Finance*

- D. Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex
- E. Keast Commons Revitalization

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kelly and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors approved the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no questions on the personnel recommendations, which were approved with the following action:

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Land and supported by Governor Stancato, the Board of Governors approved the personnel recommendations for tenure, promotion to full professor and administrative appointments as submitted. The motion carried.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

President Espy reported that the search for a new Senior Vice President for Health Affairs concluded successfully with the appointment of Dr. Bernard Costello. Dr. Costello has a strong academic background and extensive leadership experience, and comes to WSU from a top academic health center in Pittsburgh. He was highly recommended by the Search Advisory Committee and has received positive feedback from the campus community. President Espy introduced Dr. Costello, and asked for formal approval of his appointment as Senior Vice President for Health Affairs. The following action was then taken:

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kumar and supported by Governor Busuito, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Dr. Bernard Costello as Senior Vice President for Health Affairs. The effective date of this appointment is no later than January 31, 2025. The motion carried.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

### UNIVERSITY CONTRACT TO PURCHASE TECHNOLOGY FROM A COMPANY OWNED BY A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY MEMBER

Vice President Obasi presented a contract for approval with a company owned or partially owned by a Wayne State employee. This creates a potential conflict of interest. Michigan Conflict of Interest law requires specific sunshine procedures in order for a University employee, or a company owned by a University employee, to contract directly or indirectly with the University. The law requires disclosure of any pecuniary interest in the contract, and the disclosure must be made a matter of record in the Board's proceedings, including the name of the parties involved, and the terms of the contract. The vote must be approved by the Board with a vote of not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Board in open session. The disclosures required by the Conflict of interest law for the contract presented are shown below.

#### University Contract to Purchase Technology from a Company Owned by a School of Medicine Faculty Member

- i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Mitovation, Inc.
- ii) The contract will provide that:

- a. **Scope:** Intent to purchase a dual wavelength laser system (50 and 950 nm) for the purpose of conducting research funded through National Institutes of Health grant R01NS134695. Such a system is not available elsewhere but required to build a human prototype device with the goal of treating spinal cord injury as part of the recently funded R01 grant. It should be noted that the costs for the purchase of the laser system cover the parts necessary to assemble it but not any of the two-year development phase and associated costs.
  - b. **Duration:** The purchase of the laser system is a one-time purchase.
  - c. **Financial Consideration:** A one-time purchase of \$56,000.
  - d. **No university employees are assigned in connection with the purchase agreement.**
- iii) Dr. Hüttemann's pecuniary interest consists of a 54.82% ownership of Mitovation Inc. Dr. Hüttemann will therefore have the potential to financially benefit from the commercial success of the company. Dr. Hüttemann has filed a Financial Conflict of Interest with the Office of Research Integrity (COI Disclosure #COI-24-08-0949).

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Governor Land and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors authorized the President or her designee to enter into an agreement with Mitovation Inc., a Michigan corporation. The agreement will allow the purchase of critical technology to advance research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to leverage the patented, non-invasive infrared light technology to expedite the proposed work supported by an NIH-funded study, "Non-invasive infrared light therapy and medical device to treat spinal cord injury." This project explores the potential treatment of incomplete spinal cord injury in the initial 24 hours following a trauma. The motion carried with the following roll-call vote.

Danielle Atkinson - Y  
Bryan Barnhill - Y  
Michael Busuito - Y  
Mark Gaffney - Y

Marilyn Kelly - Y  
Anil Kumar - Y  
Terri Lynn Land - Y  
Shirley Stancato - Y

## REPORT ON WAIVERS APPROVED TO BOARD STATUTE 2.41.01.140

There were no questions on the report on waivers to Board Statute 2.41.01.140.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The following action was taken on the establishment of endowment funds:

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Land and supported by Governor Gaffney, the Board of Governors established endowment funds that total \$805,000.00 for the purposes presented. The motion carried.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS, TERM BEGINNING 1/1/2025**

President Espy opened the floor for election of Board officers for terms beginning January 1, 2025, and the following officers were elected:

**CHAIR**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Land, Governor Shirley Stancato was elected as Chair of the Board of Governors, for the term beginning January 1, 2025. The motion carried.

**VICE CHAIR**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Gaffney and supported by Governor Land, Governor Bryan Barnhill was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, for the term beginning January 1, 2025. The motion carried.

**TREASURER**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Barnhill and supported by Governor Stancato, Bethany Gielczyk was elected as Treasurer of the Board of Governors, for the term beginning January 1, 2025. The motion carried.

**SECRETARY**

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Land and supported by Governor Kumar, Julie Miller was elected as Secretary of the Board of Governors for the term beginning January 1, 2025. The motion carried.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Espy called on each of the Committee Chairs for a report.

***Academic And Student Affairs Committee***

Governor Stancato advised that earlier this morning, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved a new PhD program in integrative neuroscience and heard a presentation from Brian Cummings, Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The college, established 100 years ago, has 12 programs, about 1000 students, 15,000 alumni, 100 full-time faculty, and 20 staff. Dean Cummings highlighted the college's success rates, enrollment trends, and rankings, noting that nearly 100% of students secure positions in their field upon graduation. The presentation included student feedback and participation, emphasizing the college's achievements.

***Budget And Finance Committee***

Governor Barnhill reported that during its meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee approved capital expenditures for additional design services, materials and labor costs for the renovation of the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center and Hilberry Gateway performance

complex, and for the design and construction of the Keast Commons revitalization project. The Committee also received and reviewed two standard informational reports, one summarizing activity on major capital projects since the last time the board met, and the other a report on purchasing exemptions for contracts over \$50,000, which were issued without competitive bids.

### *Personnel Committee*

Governor Gaffney reported that the Personnel Committee received an update from Vice President Gielczyk and a consultant from Accenture on the ongoing review of HR and all of its operations, which has now been completed. Plans are now being developed for comprehensive and multifaceted improvements. Associate Vice President Carolyn Hafner updated the committee on employment demographics for the university's 8700 employees, including promotions, hiring, and separations. The committee also met James Middleton, the new union president for UAW 1979, which represents 500 professional and administrative staff.

## **SPECIAL TOPIC**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE - FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: CAMPUS PLANNING**

VP Bethany Gielczyk was introduced to provide an update on campus planning and financial sustainability. This presentation is part of the ongoing strategic plan updates for the Board, covering a different topic each meeting. VP Gielczyk advised that the goals in this area include rethinking the use of facilities and land space with four key objectives. These objectives involve consolidating common teaching spaces into modern and pedagogically appropriate spaces. She cited as example of progress in this area, the renovations to and redesign of State Hall and the improvements to classrooms in DeRoy. The focus is to properly align these spaces as the university moves forward.

Another area of concentration is on reducing facility expenses and generating resources by repurposing or selling unnecessary buildings. Progress is being made in this area, and several properties are currently being marketed for redevelopment, including 110 East Warren, 77 Canfield, 90 West Willis, and 2727 Second. Enhancing student life by consolidating central office space and creating more student-centered spaces is also a priority. This includes realignment efforts that will take several years to complete, creating more efficiencies across campus.

In addition, work is also being undertaken in consolidation of administrative and academic space. The university needs to rethink how buildings are used, and cited as examples the Maccabees, the Faculty Administration Building, and the Academic Administration Building. These buildings are mostly non-academic or non-faculty focused, and are candidates for consideration for this goal, which is to reduce space, consolidate teams, and potentially decommission buildings, where possible. Phase one of this project, which will span the first 18 months, is to focus on reducing campus space by one or two buildings.

In addition to consolidation or decommission, study is also underway on buildings that are candidates for potential renovation or reimagining. Buildings in this category include the

Schaver Music building, the Prentis building, the Life Sciences building, and Shapero Hall. The Schaver Music building is a candidate for a home for the potential School of Public Health. The Prentis and Life Sciences buildings require significant deferred maintenance, and Shapero Hall has underutilized lab space. The real estate strategy under consideration here also involves marketing excess properties for redevelopment, with a focus on 110 East Warren, 77 Canfield 90 West Willis, and 2727 Second.

VP Gielczyk next called on AVP Rob Davenport for an update on the new Health Sciences Research Building. AVP Davenport reported that the project has completed the initiation phase and is now in schematic design. The design development phase will follow, with construction expected to begin at the end of next year and completion slated for early 2028. The building will feature an open lab environment with modern technology, accommodating 42 principal investigators (PIs) and their support staff.

AVP Davenport also provided a recap of the capital renewal projects for 2024 and plans for 2025. Last year, more than \$50 million was invested in various projects, which included the Hilberry Gateway, Gretchen Valade Jazz Center, HVAC projects, and parking structure refurbishments, among many others. For 2025, another \$50 million is slated, with projects focusing on mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, as well as athletics. The university has also spent significant investment in elevators over the past couple of years, totaling \$13 million, with plans for an additional \$2 million in 2025 and \$5 million over the next five years. The goal is to improve elevator reliability and reduce repair requests.

Next, VP Gielczyk introduced Edna Lorenz, the new Director of the University's Office of Sustainability, to discuss the capital goal related to promoting and supporting sustainability throughout the university. Ms. Lorenz is a professional engineer and Certified Energy Manager and brings with her considerable experience from Corwell Health and a consulting firm in Chicago. Ms. Lorenz outlined her vision for operationalizing sustainability across the campus, incorporating sustainable practices into all aspects of the university's operations, from janitorial services to building design, and detailed several key initiatives for the upcoming year. The Energy Reduction Plan benchmarks the university's energy consumption, tracing energy usage to individual facilities. Waste Stream Mapping addresses dissatisfaction among students, faculty, and staff regarding waste and recycling on campus. The stormwater management plan focuses on mitigating urban flooding in Midtown, Detroit, by removing concrete, installing permeable pavements, and adding bio soils. Ms. Lorenz also discussed ongoing collaboration with the President's Sustainability Council to develop a strategic plan, which runs through 2028, guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Committee members expressed appreciation for information about the larger sustainability plan and suggested that a clear communication plan about the cost and institutional benefits for the sustainability plan be developed and integrated into the messaging about these efforts.

## **PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS OF UNIVERSITY REPORT**

President Espy provided highlights on a number of the university's recent activities and achievements, which included the following:

- Wayne State was awarded the top national prize for innovation and economic engagement by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities.
- Wayne State was ranked in the top 100 (number 93) by Time Magazine for the best colleges for future leaders. This ranking is based on empirical data from leaders' resumes and educational backgrounds.
- The National Science Foundation's HERD survey for FY 23 showed a steady increase in Wayne State's R&D activities. The university ranks well in the top 100 in various disciplines such as chemistry, health sciences, physical science, and life sciences.
- Several faculty members received notable awards and grants. For example, Drs. Liu and Firestine received a five-year renewal of the R1 on score germination inhibitors, and Nate McCaughtry was awarded an extension by the Michigan DHHS for his community health worker program.
- The university has been actively involved in community projects, such as the GBSC wastewater project. Events like Noel Night and the employee celebration have been successful in bringing the community together.
- A number of upcoming initiatives were cited, including a competitive application process in the spring for further investments in faculty projects. The university is also planning more events to bring together various advisory boards and stakeholders.
- A new winter magazine is in development which will showcase the university's contributions to the community. Additionally, the university's president participated in a panel at the Council of Competitiveness, discussing innovation and impact across universities.

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS TRIBUTE**

As Governor Mark Gaffney completes his term of service on December 31, 2024, several actions were taken by the Board and President Espy to recognize his service to the institution. President Espy remarked especially on Governor Gaffney's efforts to recruit her to the university, and her personal gratitude for his impact on the university and service on behalf of the State of Michigan.

### *Approval Of Emeritus Status*

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Kumar and supported by Governor Stancato, the Board of Governors named Mark Gaffney Governor Emeritus. The motion carried.

*Establishment Of Endowed Scholarship Fund*

**ACTION:** Upon motion made by Governor Stancato and supported by Governor Land, the Board of Governors established the Mark Gaffney Endowed Scholarship Fund, a fund functioning as an endowment to recognize scholastic achievement, encourage continued progress and to provide assistance to students financing their education at Wayne State University. The motion carried.

*Tribute*

Governor Stancato offered the following statement on behalf of the Board of Governors.

As Mark concludes his term of service on December 31, we are going to take a little time today at his last board meeting to recognize his many contributions to the board and to the University. His service has been an exemplary commitment, not only to the institution itself, but to our faculty, staff and students, for which we are profoundly grateful. Mark was elected to the Board in November 2016 following his retirement from the Teamsters and following 12 years as president of the Michigan AFL CIO. This capped a 30-year career honing exceptional skill and expertise in workforce and labor relations issues. Mark brought those skills with him to Wayne State, often providing advice and counsel to the administration on labor management issues. He increased the board's awareness as well helping find common ground and solutions that may not have been readily apparent. Mark's considerable experience and expertise were also recognized and sought after by the university's Labor at Wayne and Labor Studies program where he serves as an adjunct professor. Mark has served as the Chair of the Board at Wayne State, as chair of numerous committees and as a committee member, in fact, serving on all of the board's committees and ad hoc standing committees. As we all know, we're most fortunate that he served as chair of the board during a critical time of transition at the University. His skill and expertise were never more evident than during his service as chair of the Presidential Search Committee that brought President Espy to our campus some 16 months ago. He led the process and brought a wide panel of distinct and diverse voices and perspectives together. And we can all agree that that search that brought President Espy here was profoundly successful. During Mark's term of office, of course, the face of the institution changed dramatically, and you heard about a lot of those changes this morning. In addition to that, new programs have been approved, and new faculty, new deans and a number of new senior administrators have joined the university. The university has seen remarkable improvement in its graduation and retention rates and a tremendously wide array of student success initiatives. Throughout all of these changes, Mark has been a steadfast supporter of the institution, feeling pride as all the members of the board have about its accomplishments and urging continued progress for those areas needing improvement. We will miss you, Mark, but hope you know as you complete your term of service, the board will lose a strong advocate and a valued friend. Best wishes to you from all of us here on the Board of Governors. We hope your next adventure is the best.



President Espy expressed thanks to Governor Gaffney on behalf of the entire university, for his dedication, commitment and service to the university, its students and employees, advising that Wayne State is a better institution for his leadership.

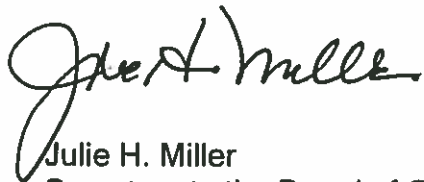
Governor Gaffney thanked everyone for their comments.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Information on Public Comment can be found in Appendix I.

Following public comment, there was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie H. Miller  
Secretary to the Board of Governors

DRAFT

## I. APPENDIX - PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Stancato provided opening comments to introduce the Public Comment portion of the agenda:

The board welcomes the opportunity to hear from students, faculty, staff and all in our broader campus community during public comments. Earlier this year, we expanded the board's ability to receive and consider written and video comments. In addition to the comments provided directly in today's session, we encourage all of this input as it helps us broaden our understanding of issues of concern to us all. Today's public comment session is for members of our community to share their perspectives with the board, not for interactive dialog. Please know we're listening to your remarks, reading your materials and taking your perspectives into consideration.

President Espy reviewed the process that will be followed, and advised that 28 speakers registered to speak by the deadline. She added that because the board wants to hear from as many speakers as possible within the 60-minute time limit designated in the board's meeting procedures, each speaker will be limited to two minutes in which to make remarks. The speakers and their statements follow below.

### QUDSIA LONE

Hello. My name is Qudsia Lone. I'm a mother of two Wayne State students. I hear many of you in this board of governors are also parents. I'm not sure what thoughts cross your mind when you see posts about the daily carnage of children going on in Gaza and now in the surrounding regions. For me, it is deeply traumatizing to be a witness to it in daily news streams, and to go from watching children being blown to bits in that part of the world to watching our own children and young adults getting brutalized by police and doxed by our educational and government institutions for opposing those egregious human rights violations. I've seen students protest at the University of Michigan and at Wayne State firsthand. It was peaceful and beautiful in the way students of various backgrounds and beliefs came together to peacefully convey a message demanding peace and demanding divestment from human carnage. The only violence I saw was when the police were unleashed on our children by their own educational institutions. Did the members of this body ever consider how they would feel if their children were thrown to the ground by the police and detained for hours in horrible conditions? Did you consider, did you consider how the parents of these students felt when they could not reach them for hours and only had videos of the raid to watch over and over again with screams of young women subjected to violence and humiliation at the hands of quote, unquote, law enforcement and knowing that one of the students had to be taken to the hospital. My own parents left the dictatorial regime to escape religious persecution in a different part of the world. They came here to give me and my siblings a chance to live and learn in freedom. I've always cherished my new home, thinking of my children, thinking that my children were here free to get an education and follow their conscience. The fact that funds raised in the name of providing an education are being used in the most unethical way in

companies profiting from war and genocide by a state that is many times more brutal than the one that we escaped is unacceptable and abhorrent, to say the least.

### **ZAYNAH JADALLAH**

Bismillah Rahman era him in the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace be upon you all. My name is Zaynah Jadallah. I am the director of safe spaces at the Council on American Islamic Relations Michigan chapter. I am here on behalf of CAIR Michigan to address serious concerns raised by students at this campus since 2021. These include Islamophobia, suppression of pro-Palestinian voices, and excessive reliance on law enforcement, creating an environment that intimidates rather than supports activism and inclusivity. As a public institution, Wayne State University is obligated to uphold freedom of speech and the civil and religious liberties of all students. Yet we've seen alarming incidents that disregard these principles. Student peacefully raising awareness about genocide in Gaza was subjugated to a violent rape, police with students detained, and a Muslim student having her hijab removed. Meanwhile, Islamophobic groups have desecrated the Holy Quran on campus with impunity, fostering a hostile environment. Instead of implementing safety measures, the university repeatedly changes policies following peaceful protests, clearly targeting dissenting voices. Police officers have also been stationed in the Student Center, patrolling near rooms for events used by the MSA and pro-Palestinian groups. This created an atmosphere of fear, particularly for communities with a history of police surveillance. I urge President Espy, the Board of Governors and the administration not only to listen, but to take decisive actions such as enforce police accountability through sensitivity training and clear protocols, create formal avenues for grievances and resolutions with transparency and address Islamophobia through tangible measures including education and student support. The time to act is now. Wayne State must foster a campus where every student feels safe, heard and respected. Thank you.

### **SAFIA HANIYA YUSUF**

Good afternoon. During the BOG meeting before my first medical school finals, I told campus leadership that their refusal to listen to students and divest from war profiteers had sparked a movement that they could not ignore. Now, as I approach my second finals week, I stand before you to share the progress that we have made. Wayne State now has six organizations dedicated to seeking justice for Palestinians, including the newly established Medical Students for Justice in Palestine. Additionally, we have gained even more signatories through the Wayne State University Ethical Investment, Collective, or WSU EIC. Students in this collective have developed a new divestment proposal for real estate, which is available online with full copies also accessible. During the public comment. I, along with other students on the speaker list, will be reading key sections of this proposal. The EIC called upon Wayne State to withdraw financial support from companies that are directly funding or complicit in apartheid and genocide. This concerns actions taken by the illegally occupying state of Israel against the Palestinian people, a distinct national, racial and ethnic group. These actions include the killing of Palestinians in Gaza, causing serious bodily and mental harm and imposing conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction, in manifest violation of the Genocide Convention. Israel's actions are also in clear violation of the International Convention on

the suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid. Further. implicating the apartheid system in Palestine. Thank you.

### **TOMMY AIREY**

I'm a resident of Woodbridge neighborhood, just a stone's throw away. My spouse and I have been living there for the past few years, and I was on a walk just a couple weeks ago, and I noticed that peace pole right out in front of the Faculty and Administration building. I guess this peace pole was donated just last year to the Center of Peace and Conflict Studies to honor the native peoples of this land. It's got the word peace in the language of Ojibwe and Odawa and Potawatomi peoples. And when I walked past it, the first thing I thought about was these students on this campus who are honoring and giving dignity to native peoples of this land and to the land of the Holy Land, the Palestinian people. I thought about the students that for years now have been demanding that this university divest from companies that are profiting off of land theft and now genocide. These students, in the midst of an atmosphere of anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia, are summoning spiritual depth, moral clarity and political courage to stop a genocide. These students are peacemakers, but you have refused to take the sensible demands of these students seriously. When they pitch tents and nonviolent protests, you even called the cops dressed up in riot costumes to arrest them. As Jewish historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt theorized, those who go along with genocides aren't innately evil. They're often just boring careerists, people just doing their job instead of doing what it takes to stop a genocide. So I'm asking you board to break rank with ruling elites and stand with these students.

### **NUZMEYA ABRADDOH**

My name is Nuzmeya Abdrabboh. I'm a student at this university and I'll be reading from the divestment proposal submitted to the Board of Governors today at this meeting. As a public institution, Wayne State University is accountable to its community, including its students, faculty, alumni and the city it serves. The Board of Governors has demonstrated responsiveness to student advocacy. Many of these institutional Programs and Features originated from student led initiatives such as Fall Break, the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education and others. Divestment has been introduced through the Wayne State Student Senate in 2003 and again in November 2023. Wayne State's Department of African American Studies as we know it, would not have existed without student protest demanding a center in 1970 and a building occupation, demanding a department in 1989. The BOG have demonstrated a divestment mechanism through its decisions to divest from South African apartheid and the tobacco industry in response to student led campaigns. These actions underscore the university's commitment to align its financial practices with principles of equity, justice and global responsibility. Over a year of advocacy efforts have further highlighted widespread community support for divestment, most notably with hundreds of people demonstrating their solidarity by visiting the student encampment for divestment on Wayne State University grounds. By failing to address this overwhelming consensus, the Board of Governors erodes trust within the community and damages its reputation as a leader of social justice. Wayne State must demonstrate consistency in its commitment to social justice by reading these findings contained in this proposal and divesting from companies the university decides to uphold in its missions and principles. This action would reaffirm the university's dedication to

upholding human rights and ethical investment principles and inform the democratic commitment to its student community. We've submitted a proposal. We've given you information. You don't understand what we're talking about, or you don't understand why we're doing this. Read it, learn it, understand it, because we will be here and we will be back.

### **GRACE CADIEUX**

My name is Grace Cadieux. I'm a student, veteran and vice president of Jewish Voice for Peace. The Board of Governors and the university president must adhere to the democratic principles and enact bylaws and regulations that favor the clear and broad consensus among their constituencies. As elected bodies, the university administration must prioritize the interests of whom they chose to serve. Concerned constituents have been urging the adoption of an ethical investment policy. It is in the WSU Board of Governors interest to see through the adoption of a new policy to both align the values of the university and its policy and prevent circumstances of unrest and sustained dissatisfaction in the community. Wayne State has a rich history of social movements that are celebrated today despite their perceived controversy at the time. This section explores the history of Wayne State University's existing efforts of ethical investments and strategies from which this proposal builds upon to align the institutional mission of positively impacting local and global communities. Wayne State has a proud history of standing against injustice through principled financial decisions. During the apartheid era in South Africa, the university divested from companies complicit in apartheid injustices, aligning its financial practices with its moral and ethical values. Similarly, in 1991 the university divested from tobacco companies, responding to student advocacy and reorganizing the detrimental impact of such investments on its public health priorities. I'm going to take one minute to address this board member here. How dare you refuse to take that proposal? You're an elected official. That's your constituent. You're elected to do a job. Take the proposal.

### **LEJLA BAJGORIC**

I'm in agreement with what I'm sure everyone else has said. I'm a graduate student here at Wayne State in the History department. I formerly went to Wayne as an undergrad as well. Not much has changed since the last Board of Governors meeting, both in terms of the situation of the Palestinians, but also, it seems like of the composition of the board and your position. Unfortunately, things have only gotten worse in Palestine. You probably know there's a modern day Holocaust being carried out that it seems like most folks here are okay with. Israel has now illegally invaded Syria. It is stealing land from Syrians and claiming it as their own, dubbing it Greater Israel, which is horrifying. They are bombing Syrians. They are bombing Lebanese people, infringing upon the sovereignty of millions of people across the world, which is abhorrent, and Wayne State has continued to retain its investments in Raytheon, in Lockheed Martin and dozens of other companies that are profiting off of this criminal warfare. So I'm here as a student who pays tuition to this university to ask you to please divest. Finally, this is not a minority or a fringe position. Very recently, the Yale student body at Yale University overwhelmingly endorsed divestment. This is the stance of the majority of people in this country and across the world. Wayne State will unfortunately look back on this period with deep shame and regret. The sooner you can act the better. There is blood on all of your hands. Thank you.

**JAMES PERKINSON**

James Perkinson, professor of social ethics at Ecumenical Theological Seminary over on Woodward. I've lain awake for three nights now wondering what I can say in two minutes that would make any difference. It feels like a game. We talk. You sit there and check a box. The dollars continue to flow to the corporations. The bombs continue to fall. Kids body parts continue to fly through the air before their mother's eyes or their legs have to be sawn off while the parents hold them down screaming. The mainstream media pontificates about the latest electoral shenanigans. Tens of thousands of Lion's fans continue to pour through my downtown neighborhood on Sundays to go drink and roar. You sit in your offices doing something you call education. Really, I call it incorporation into genocide. The United Nations last week said Gaza now has the highest per capita rate of child amputees in the world with many children forced to endure surgery without anesthesia. This is not fake information. The whole world can see. Your kids can see. These young people can see, and unless you've taken in some ideas that tell you don't believe your eyes, these are not real human beings being killed, just blobs of animal fat, just terrorists, just human shields. Your eyes are reporting to your brain ongoing human dismemberment taking place in real time with your blessing, in the form of investment dollars and taxes. You could contribute to stopping it, or you can continue to be human shields for the really scary terrorists of our time, the corporations that are destroying the world. Up to you, but subsequent history, if any of us survive what's happening, will be unequivocal. What the US of A is doing in this affair is utterly reprehensible and perverse. But then that is exactly how we behave towards our own indigenous folk, isn't it? So of course.

**PASTOR ELI KRANZ**

My name is Pastor Elijah Kranz and I'm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, your neighbor to Wayne State, just on the corner of Forest and Cass. As a Unitarian, I am called to speak up when the dignity and worth of people are in jeopardy. I'm also called because the actions of this institution, as well as their inaction, has affected beloved members of my congregation deeply. Their spiritual and emotional care is in my hands as their minister. To the student voices here demanding change, we are with you. We affirm and support your wisdom and action. You are beloved and held in our spirit, and we are here for you whatever you need. Both our denomination and our church here in Detroit have made it very clear where we stand in this conflict and is on the side of Palestinian people here in Gaza and around the world. To this board first, support the call for divestment transparency and the end of police action against protesters. From the June meeting, Governor Barnhill is quoted as saying, and pardon me for paraphrasing for time, that students need to have a level of critical thinking to realize that quote, in order to address complex issues, you have to do more than yell at people who ultimately would pass a policy that is tantamount to just a gesture. I invite you governors into the same critical thinking to understand where you are in history. It is an insult to dismiss these prophetic voices rising in unity despite violent suppression. Historically, yelling has been proven to be very effective to make people pay attention when things that need to be paid attention to. They are a class in warning when things are deeply wrong. These students have done you a service by acting as a warning bell of consciousness. What they are asking of you is not an empty gesture. It is a clear action that you can take if you cannot,

perhaps it is time to critically think of your position in this body and whether it is the right place for you. Thank you.

### **DANIA AYESH**

University President David Adamany served from 1983 to 1997, expressed a principled rationale for the implementation of institutional divestiture from companies that are complicit in apartheid. On total divestiture versus the existing resolution adopting the Sullivan principles, Adamany stated that total divestiture "signals minority students of the university's concern for them and its recognition of the evils arising from racial, national and religious discrimination." He furthers this point by saying, "the special circumstances within which the Board of Governors. now deliberate makes a plausible case that generational institutional interests may be better served by policy of total avoidance in divestiture. Wayne State University has to a degree rarely found in the United States, served exactly those minority, racial and religious groups which are the targets of discriminatory policies in the USSR and the Republic of South Africa. While the university can be proud of these accomplishments, it should recognize also that its special commitment should be steadily extended precisely because other institutions are not meeting the needs of the affected groups. The symbolic importance of the university's divestment policy and its continued efforts to provide encouragement to and to serve these groups is consequently greater at Wayne than elsewhere." Former president Adamany's words perfectly embody the practice of Wayne State's long held values and purpose in Detroit. With the undergraduate library named in his honor, former president Adamany upheld academic honor and respect for his marginalized students and community, something that you guys do not do. Thank you.

### **MAHMOUD MUHEISEN**

Okay, I had stuff prepared to say, but everyone already said basically everything there is to say. Now I just want to address you guys, because it's kind of funny. She comes to hand this (INAUDIBLE) a paper, and she doesn't accept it, and she thinks she's a big shot, smiling. The girl you slammed on the floor. Yes, you guys slammed on the floor and had her hijab ripped, ripped off, and threw her inside of a cell. She hands you a paper, and you don't take it. And then when you're when the other person that came after called you out on it while she walked away, you laugh. What is wrong with you? Like people come to tell you guys, oh, we need you guys to do this. We need you guys to do this. There's evil people in Israel. The evil people aren't only in Israel. They're right here. They're right here. Every single one of you guys. Shame on you guys. What is wrong with you, especially you. And then the first person that came, she said, Do you guys not have kids when you see the kid images of kids in Gaza, do you guys not have sympathy to those kids? I say this. I say, may your children be treated the way Israel treats Palestinian children. And if you think that's an insult, then you agree that Israel is treating Palestinian children horribly. And if you think that Israel treats Palestinian children good, I want you to say amen to that prayer, because if you don't, it shows you guys are hypocrites. It's okay for, for people to come stomp on the Quran on campus and harass Muslims on campus, but God forbid the students on campus condemn a foreign regime that new policies are enacted, a private security company is brought in, extra police patrolling where the Muslims sit, but don't criticize the foreign regime 1000s away that hurts her Republican honor. Her, right there. She has served 10 years in the, what you do? The Republican. Do we have to get

something like this? By the way, we're starting a student PAC. And you see here your political career is done, done.

### **DESIREE FERGUSON**

My name is Desiree Ferguson. I'm an attorney. I'm a former faculty member at this esteemed Law School. I'm speaking today on behalf of the Michigan chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. The Michigan chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers appears today to call for this university to respect the First Amendment rights of all students, specifically to respect and protect the rights of those who express their views on events in Palestine. We request as well that this Board of Governors consider the merits of these expressions of concern and reach the reasonable and humane conclusion that this university should be in no way complicit in the ongoing campaign of genocide that by some estimates, has caused, directly and indirectly, the deaths of nearly 200,000 innocent Palestinians, the widespread destruction of Gaza, as well as the deliberate ongoing massacres that are ongoing in that region have appropriately prompted the issuance of an arrest warrant of Prime Minister Netanyahu by the International Criminal Court. The International Court of Justice appears to be moving toward definitive findings that the events in Gaza in fact do constitute genocide. NCBL is alarmed that last spring, this university authorized violent attacks by law enforcement officers on those in the encampment who, like the aforementioned respected international courts, demonstrated alarm about the events in Palestine. I'm going to run out of time. I'm going to conclude my remarks by urging this Board of Governors to seriously consider the request made for divestment from all implements of the State of Israel.

### **RIDAA KHAN**

My name is Ridaa Khan, and I'm going to just be continuing on. It's going to be starting from the middle of page nine, with the proposal. So this is on Wayne State's tobacco divestment. In April of 1991 two medical students attended a BOG meeting, as we're doing right now and have been doing for the past year, and pointed out the dissonance between the university's cancer research and prevention efforts versus investments in tobacco companies. The students presented a resolution for the consideration of the BOG in which they urged the Governors to commit to the university's principles. The Governors approved the student's resolution in the following BOG meeting. A significant precedent of student advocacy influencing University investment decisions occurred when these two medical students addressed the investments in tobacco companies. The students highlighted the conflict between the university's professed values and its financial practices. As a result, the university reconsidered and ultimately divested from these companies, aligning its investments with its health-related mission and values. Given the established precedent, the university must take the concern of divestment, apart from apartheid and genocide complicit companies, seriously and implement the necessary changes to align its investments with its values. This duty is grounded in the right supported to students. The university's commitment to ethical standards and the precedent of the university to hear and implement feedback on investment from students. Today, we heard a presentation on sustainability, which I thought was a good presentation. I actually used to work at the Office of Campus Sustainability in the compost program. Our program is similar, and that it's really about global sustainability. Student success rides on sustainability, both on campus and in effect of what we put into the world



and what we propagate through financial systems. These commitments are not separable from each other.

### **THOMAS PEDRONI**

Thomas Pedroni, College of Education, Associate Professor. Last Thursday, Amnesty International joined the international chorus of voices denouncing the Israeli slaughter of Palestinian children, women and men as genocide. One thing we as parents tell our children in moments of crisis and devastation is to look for the helpers. In Gaza, most important among the helpers are the medical workers who work in impossible conditions to try to attend to the injured, the mutilated, the starving and the dying. Unfortunately, hospitals, ambulance drivers and medical workers are, as has been widely documented, systematically targeted by Israeli forces. On Monday, the 76th anniversary of the UN's adaptation of the convention of genocide, I and many others listened to the press conference of doctors across Gaza testifying to the conditions in which they work every day. We heard about Dr Hussain Abu Sophia, the director of camaraderie Hospital in northern Gaza, who was severely wounded in an Israeli attack on his hospital in late November, and who had lost his eight-year-old son a few weeks earlier. Four more members of the medical staff were killed in an Israeli assault last Friday and on Monday, Israeli attacks cut off the hospital's supply of electricity, oxygen and water. Attacks like this have been directed at hospitals across Gaza repeatedly. Doctors Against Genocide has now launched a global campaign called not another child, not another hospital. The campaign is embedded in the principle that medicine, fundamentally, is about preserving human life, and therefore hospitals and doctors should not be targeted. This is a principle upon which everyone should be able to agree. We're fortunate at Wayne State to be led by a President and Provost who are fundamentally health workers. President Espy is a clinical neuropsychologist, which allows her insight into the mental suffering of children in Gaza. Provost, Clabo, a longtime leader in the field of nursing, understands the complexity of medical triage under adverse conditions. I urge the university, as a leader in the health sciences field in Detroit and the state, to join in the not another child, not another hospital campaign and be remembered in this time of genocide in this way. I would be happy to serve as our university's liaison to that campaign. Thank you.

### **LAYLA SAATCHI**

I'm standing here to remind you of your duty as public servants employed at a public university to uphold the First Amendment. You might be wondering why this reminder is needed now. Recent actions bringing criminal charges against Wayne State students, the suppression of peaceful protest during festival and the rewording of our free speech norms to empower administration and weaponize our campus police are just a few reasons. But if I'm being honest, what really motivates me is the spectacle of a black plain clothed police officer violently pushing, dragging and yanking five hijabi women out of the Board of Governors meeting on April 26 while his white police chief looked on approvingly. If you're not concerned about justice, maybe you'll be concerned about optics. As a public university, Wayne State has a duty to uphold the First Amendment. Why are so you so worried about criticizing Zionism? It's an ideology that motivated the ethnic cleansing of 750,000 Palestinians 76 years ago. It's an ideology that still justifies illegal Jewish settlements on land that has been owned by Palestinians for generations in West Bank. These are facts. Now, either one thinks that this is justified or not, but in any case, this

should be open for discussion, especially at Wayne State. However, what I'm observing is faculty are my colleagues and students retreating to their corners because it's not safe to speak out in the open. This is the beginning of the end of democracy, when our academic institutions become ideological. Now our students will graduate, and given their intelligence, grit and sense of integrity, I imagine they will go on to do amazing and wonderful things in their professional lives, but here's where you should pay attention. When our alumni office reaches out to them for donations, these wildly successful professionals are going to remember when you demonized and misrepresented them.

### **HASSAN ALRAMAHY**

For reference, I'm a student at this university in the College of Engineering. Let's continue with the proposal. Wayne States pridefully embraces its R1 status as a prominent research institution in Michigan, however, there's an incongruity between Wayne State key research areas that aim to promote discoveries and ethics for remains in investing in the genocide and apartheid within Gaza. Health and environmental research is at the forefront of funded academic activity. One of the many examples is research conducted through the Institute for Environmental Health Sciences which has received a multimillion dollar grant to explore the harmful effects of PFAS. At the same time, Israel's used aircraft to weaponize PFAS harmful effects to perpetuate apartheid by damaging life supporting crafts in an infrastructure with (INAUDIBLE). Another grant in the College of Fine Performing and Communication Arts and the College of Education, explores the interdependency of drinking water and health systems. This interdependency has been confirmed by the simultaneous destruction of water and health systems in Gaza where more than 95% of Gaza's water has been deemed unsafe for human consumption and poor sanitation, overcrowding and acute malnutrition have induced the devastating surge in infectious diseases and postoperative infections on the entire population of Gaza. The Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute holds research on infants' behavior, biology, environment and more. Fifteen percent of this research contains discovery and results' that are contradicted by the entities that are complicit in the destruction of Palestinians homes, schools and medical facilities that exacerbate the very conditions that research work mitigates to solve. The weight of these contradictions between research studies and investments that companies that have had environmental and health devastation will continue to grow for Wayne State and its community as long as divestment does not occur. Wayne State University has demonstrated through its divestments in South Africa apartheid and tobacco that there is an established divestment precedent which entrusts the BOG with the responsibility of aligning its financial practices with its alleged principles.

### **NOOR MANSOOR**

I'm going to be reading from page 16 on the proposal. In binding orders, the ICJ ruling of January 2024, authorize the right of South Africa to protect the rights of Palestinians from genocide by the state of Israel. The court noted that purpose was not just to ascertain that genocide is occurring but to prevent its atrocities and ultimate goal of erasure from occurring again in history. This moral imperative is being instilled in more and more institutions as Israel's violations continue to occur. Recent precedents of institutional recognition. Research institutions across the world are being presented with the invitation to reassess their investment portfolios in the face of modern forms of complicity and forms of violence and injustice. North American universities can have made strides in this

endeavor. Our neighboring campus at the University of Windsor has institutionalized a robust agreement with student activists that include divestment under their policies, and new anti-racist policies and several other provisions. Just as Wayne State has limited investments in tobacco, San Fransisco State University, SFSU, limited its investment in coal and tar in 2013. On March 14, an investment advisory council with students was set up, and by August the SFSU Foundation divested from weapon manufacturers Lockheed Martin, Palantir Technologies, and Leonardo. Wayne State University's complicity. In light of these recent developments, Wayne State University's responsibility to divest from Israeli associated entities can be further justified by setting an illegal framework. The genocide and recent ICJ ruling adds weight to arguments that continuing any form of economic relationship with Israeli institutions supports these violations of international law including apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. The next section will explore the policy the Wayne State University Board of Governors can pass to define the investment policy state for the Wayne State University Foundation to adhere to.

### **JENNA SUKKAR**

Assalamu alaikum. My name is Ms. Jenna Sukkar, so I'll be continuing off the divestment proposal that was presented to all of you guys. Universities shall maintain a portfolio of investments that adhere to ethical principles. In this case, investments in companies that contribute to apartheid practices are considered unethical and therefore should be assessed and discarded. The university will remove investments through common fund ICIO global equity from the following companies. Divestment should be enacted on companies including, but not limited to Raytheon. This American company sells bombs, fighter jets, other weapon systems and border monitoring surveillance equipment to the United States, into the state of Israel, it is further implicated in international corruption, as ruled by the US justice system. Alba System serves Israel as its largest weapons provider. Alba Systems has provided NPR bombs, parts for Israeli fighter aircraft, weapons systems for Israeli battle tanks and electric, electronic warfare technology to Israeli surface vessels, enabling it in its war crimes. The UN Human Right Council found that Alba-made NPR bombs were likely used to bomb a family of nine in their home in Han Eunice Gaza in 2015. Alba-made drones were also found to have attacked three world central kitchen vehicles in April of 2024, Lockheed Martin Corp has facilitated Israel's extreme violations against Gaza, including bombs using F 16 and F 35 fighter jets, ground invasions of Gaza with its C130 transport aircraft in aerial attacks using AGM 114 Hellfire missiles for Israeli helicopters. Between October 7 and November 14 of 2023 Israel received over 2000 Hellfire missiles. On December 11, 2023, the Israeli Air Force dropped over seven tons of equipment using Lockheed Martin's super aircraft to Israeli soldiers conducting ground attacks in Han Eunice. On November 9, 2023 a Lockheed Martin *[speaker's time elapsed]*

### **INAM MUSTAFA**

My name is Inam. Just here to finish off reading the proposal where it was just left off. Starting with Boeing. Boeing is the third largest military company in the world that designs, manufactures and sells military weapons to the IDF to use against Palestinians. As of 2022, Boeing had \$35 billion in annual revenue, 56% of which was obtained from its defense sector. The US shipped over 1000 guided bomb units to Israel in October, and sent another shipment of, of these bombs on April 1<sup>st</sup>, one day before the world central kitchen bombing, where seven aid workers were killed. Then again on November, 1 an

Israeli airstrike conducted or used these bombs to kill over 150 Palestinians residing in the home of the Nbud (SIC) family. Moving on, Northrop Grumman. This company arms Israel with key components of F 35 Apache attack helicopters and communication subsystems to have these fighter jets. These fighter jets are commonly used in population dense zones, leading to high civilian casualty rates, including on July 13, an attack of the Saudi humanitarian zone, killing at least 90 Palestinians and 18 people during attack in the (INAUDIBLE) refugee camp. The following apartheid enabling companies that directly contribute to uprooting a violent apartheid structure against Palestinians include Caterpillar. Caterpillar D9 militarized bulldozers were used to demolish structures in the West Bank in 2015 on Mafali (SIC). In 2005 the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit brought a case against Caterpillar for the selling of bulldozers to Israel that were used to kill Palestinians and murdered American student activist Rachel Corrie. I'd also like to thank the ACRL for being here in order to protect our rights as students, because we feel threatened. So thank you.

#### INAYA BUTT:

My name is Anaya Butt. I'm a student in the Department of Education. I'm continuing from when Inam left off. The Israel Discount Bank is a bank that supports the establishment and expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank by providing loans for their construction. This bank collaborates with land developers to construct residences on land that was unlawfully taken from Palestinians. This bank enables the violent displacement of people from the occupied territory, as well as facilitating the mass transfer of civilians into occupied territory. Min V (SIC) real estate is one of the largest settlement businesses in Israel. Min V is known for its industrial buildings in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights, where many illegal Israeli settlements exist. The UN Commissioner of Human Rights generated a list of implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic and social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people, and has found Min V to be responsible for use of natural resources, in particular, water and land, for business purposes. Motorola Solutions is indispensable in enabling the systematic oppression and territorial fragmentation of the Palestinian people. It has provided the Moto ego (SIC) for dozens of settlements, providing an invasive network of sensors, radars and cameras to prevent Palestinian landowners from accessing their land. The UN High Commissioner of Human Rights has found Motorola to be responsible for the supply of security services, equipment and materials to enterprises operating in settlements, and the provision of services utilities supporting the maintenance and existence of settlements, including transport. I just want to bring up the fact that Terri Land is on her phone while I'm speaking, after refusing to take the documents and after laughing multiple times as people walked away from calling her out. I hope that you listen to my words and do not laugh and make light of the suffering that people are enduring, because clearly you have lived a privileged life to not care about other human beings at all. Thank you.

#### NAZNIN MAHMOOD

I am an alumna of Wayne State University, School of Medicine, a pediatric neurologist locally, and a part of Doctors Against Genocide. Several of you here on Board of Governors are doctors, as well. You have spent the best years of your life training to save lives, and when you do surgery, I'm sure you optimize every factor to, for your patients

healing and **(INAUDIBLE)**. Others of you are lifelong advocates for mothers and children, advocates for the wellbeing of health care workers and even psychologists trained for healing those that are traumatized. Please stop and open your eyes. It has to hurt your heart that there is a genocide happening in Gaza and that our financial support, even though this university, is enabling it, even in spaces that we hold sacred as caregivers and advocates, there is relentless, targeted destruction of healthcare facilities, workers and pay, and the patients that desperately need care. Have you seen the patients burning alive in their hospital beds with their IV lines attached? The world has seen it, and these are war crimes. Overall, since the first days and months of the onslaught on the healthcare system in Gaza, power supplies have been cut to hospitals. Premature babies have died in incubators and their bodies been ravaged by animals. Hospitals been bombed, nurses and staff killed by sniper fire through the windows. Medical transport workers bombed, while others are kidnapped and raped. Surgeons are operating in rooms that are shaking. The walls are shaking while they're trying to operate. Amnesty International as well as ICC and ICJ have studied this and called it with evidence of genocide. It is immoral and unethical to have investments in a country or industry that is involved in a genocide. Our collective humanity is on the line, and those that stand for nothing will fall for anything. So please divest from this.

#### **HUWAIDA ARRAF**

My name is Huwaida Arraf. I'm a human rights and a civil rights attorney. I struggled really with what to use my two minutes to communicate to you. The legal, historical, ethical and moral implications of not adopting an ethical investment policy. I thought about what it means for an institution of higher learning, a place where we send our children to prepare them to be leaders and change makers in the world, to treat its students the way that this board has treated its students. And then I thought, well, maybe you don't really know what's happening, after all, our media doesn't tell us here, though, these students have done a wonderful job. But I thought, let me use the little time that I have to make sure that you know what's happening, why these students are demanding divestment, why students across the country are demanding divestment, and what the global majority sees and is demanding. Gaza is the size of Detroit, where 2.3 million people have been imprisoned for over two decades, and that's before this latest onslaught. Conservatively, Israel has killed over 45,000 people, and that's just the names that we know. Thousands more are buried under the rubble. Medical journals are estimating 200,000 and more. At least 17,000 children have been killed. Ninety-nine American doctors who volunteered in Gaza attest to a deliberate policy of shooting children, having seen countless children with clean shots to the head and heart. Those children who are still alive are without shelter, without clothing, are sick and hungry, and many of them have lost one or more limbs. As you heard, Gaza is now home to the largest cohort of child amputees, per capita. Twenty thousand children have become homeless. I'm sorry. They become orphans. Imagine being an eight year old child who has lost one or more limbs and has no surviving family left. Israel has killed more kids in Gaza last year than have been killed in all world conflicts combined over the last four years. You can't say you didn't know.

#### **COURTENAY HALL**

Good afternoon, I understand that you are not responsible for creating a portfolio that contains ties to the Israeli occupation, but you did inherit that portfolio, and you now have

an obligation to the Wayne State students, staff and faculty, as well as the surrounding Detroit community, to divest from that portfolio. I am very disappointed in a prior meeting, one of the Board of Governors said that only point 1% of the investments are indirectly tied to occupation, apartheid and genocide. Well, that's point 1% too many, in my opinion. I'm sure you know by now that divestment comes in many forms, and as a healthcare provider in this area who was educated here at Wayne State University, I stand in solidarity with the students and demanding that you not only divest from the war profiteers, but also divest from the occupation mentality by committing to dissolving any further Wayne State Police officer training under the direction of the IOS, as many of the learned tactics have contributed to the brutal death of a profuse number of people of color, including, but not limited to Sonia Massey, George Floyd, Sherman Lee Butler and John Zook Jr right here in this city. Divesting from apartheid mentality also includes apologizing to the students and staff who were punished by militarized police for dissenting. Divesting from apartheid mentality means initiating an audit of every aspect of software and technology used at the university, as well as assessing retirement investments to assure that all platforms are apartheid and genocide free, as well as auditing the backgrounds of the vendors, suppliers and builders to assure that only conflict free contracts will be negotiated on this campus. Human rights are being violated daily on a global level with our help, due to our obliviousness, and although our leaders refuse to respect Leahy Law and the International Criminal Court, we at the grassroots level and should be respecting both of those.