



DivestNU

injustice is not an investment

October 18, 2016

Hello Madeleine,

Thank you again for assembling the Senior Leadership Team to meet with us on short notice yesterday morning. We left the meeting with a three-pronged proposal for moving forward: 1) working with administrators to draft a statement regarding Northeastern's direct investments (or rather, lack thereof) in the fossil fuel industry; 2) Working together to develop the \$25M investment plan announced in the July statement; and 3) Working together to further general sustainability efforts on campus. We have discussed these items with the rest of our group and reached the following consensus:

Regarding the \$25M investment plan and campus sustainability efforts; we acknowledge the importance of proactive investment strategies, but, as we discussed in the meeting, such strategies do not preclude the need for targeted fossil fuel divestment. It is excellent that you have expressed willingness to loop students into this process, but that is not the place for DivestNU. We would be happy to connect you with members of the Husky Environmental Action Team, Real Food Challenge, and other campus groups who may wish to offer their input, many of which are also supporters of DivestNU.

Regarding the statement on direct investments; as we explained in our meeting, in order for such a statement to adequately address the Northeastern community's concerns, it must contain two things: a critique of the fossil fuel industry's bankrolling of climate denial and reckless pursuit of ever more coal, oil, and gas; and a pathway to explore a hard policy on future direct investments. The Senior Leadership Team members present yesterday made it clear that they were uninterested in both of those stipulations. To quote Thomas Nedell, the university is not likely to "entertain a statement that says we're not holding direct investments because we see that itself as a denouncement of the fossil fuel industry."

We are at an impasse, not because DivestNU is unwilling to come to the table, but because Senior Leadership is determined to shield the Board of Trustees and deny its relationship to ExxonMobil. It may be that we hold different perspectives, but we refuse to endorse a perspective that addresses the world's most pressing challenge only in vague terms of sustainability, rather than one that acutely confronts the pernicious role of the fossil fuel industry. We will continue to escalate our campaign and elevate the voices of the Northeastern stakeholders who have been speaking out about the conflicts of interest and lack of transparency at this school for years.

Regards,

Alissa Zimmer
on behalf of DivestNU