

## **Resolution F20-05: Expansion of the Committee on Fossil Fuel Investment Principles**

**Sponsors:** Megan Kelley (Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, Service Committee Chair)  
Amber Howell (Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program)  
Kyra Thrush (Computational Biology & Bioinformatics)  
Julianne Rolf (Chemical and Environmental Engineering)  
Laura Logozzo (School of the Environment)

**Recipients:** Peter Salovey (*President*, Yale University)  
Scott Strobel (*Provost*, Yale University)  
Jonathan Macey (*Chair*, Committee on Fossil Fuel Investment Principles)  
David Swensen (*Chief Investment Officer*, Yale University)  
Yale Board of Trustees

**Whereas** the Yale University (the University) Committee on Fossil Fuel Investment Principles (CFFIP) was created on October 22, 2020 to, with input from the University community, develop guiding principles for the Corporation Committee on Investor Responsibility with regards to the “social injury” of fossil fuel investment<sup>1</sup>.

**Whereas** “social injury” means “the injurious impact which the activities of a company are found to have on consumers, employees, or other persons.”<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas** the “injurious impact” of fossil fuels includes environmental discrimination, in which risks tied to fossil fuels are inequitably shouldered by communities based on socioeconomic, racial, and cultural factors. In practice, this means that the negative impacts of the fossil fuel industry such as pollution and extreme weather due to climate change are disproportionately concentrated in communities which are poor and/or primarily made up of Black, Brown, or other people of color.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas** students have long called for the University to take action to address the existential threat of climate change, including recognizing environmental discrimination and centering environmental and climate justice.

---

<sup>1</sup> “Committee on Fossil Fuel Investment Principles.” *Office of the President*, 7 Nov. 2020, [president.yale.edu/committee-fossil-fuel-investment-principles](http://president.yale.edu/committee-fossil-fuel-investment-principles), accessed November 1, 2020

<sup>2</sup> “Policies and Past Actions: Concept of Social Injury.” *Policies and Past Actions | Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility*, [acir.yale.edu/policies-and-past-actions](http://acir.yale.edu/policies-and-past-actions), accessed November 30, 2020

<sup>3</sup> Schlosberg, D., & Collins, L. B. (2014). From environmental to climate justice: climate change and the discourse of environmental justice. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 5(3), 359-374.

**Whereas** the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is an elected body charged with representing graduate students, including acting as an important voice on many University committees such as the Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility.

**Whereas** the GSA is recognized by the CFFIP as a partner in ensuring representation of graduate student perspectives on the development of principles on fossil fuel investment.

**Whereas** the University has many environmental justice experts within the Yale School of the Environment.<sup>4</sup>

**Be it resolved** that the GSA urges the University to expand the composition of the CFFIP to include experts on climate and environmental justice in order to ensure that the “social injury” of fossil fuels receives adequate attention in the development of the committee’s new investment guidelines.

**Be it further resolved** that this expansion should also include representatives from University stakeholders with a history of involvement on these issues, such as the GSA, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate, the Yale College Council, and the Yale Office of Sustainability.

---

<sup>4</sup> *Yale School of the Environment Faculty Expertise: Environmental Justice.*  
[environment.yale.edu/profiles/expertise/environmental-justice](http://environment.yale.edu/profiles/expertise/environmental-justice).