

INVEST FOR CHANGE

Template policy for students' unions



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This union notes:

1. That *<insert university>* has *<insert number>* in investments.

You should be able to find this information in your institution's financial statements, which should be publicly available online. Search the document for 'Total net assets'.

2. That *<insert university>* has committed to divesting from the fossil fuel industry *<insert any specific commitments>*.

See People & Planet's list of [divested universities](#) to find yours.

3. That *<insert university>* does not currently have a publicly available responsible investment policy.

OR

That *<insert university>* has a publicly available responsible investment policy, which was last updated on *<insert date>*.

4. That *<insert university>* do not publicly disclose investment holdings, voting and engagement activity in a clear and accessible way.

If this is publicly disclosed, it should be easily searched for and found on the website. If not, it is likely even if this information is available it is not accessible.

This union believes:

1. Investments in shares of corporate companies do little, or no, to further efforts to tackle the climate crisis and social injustice.
2. Universities should invest their money in the interest of their students and the world they will graduate in to.
3. That *<insert university>* should be a progressive role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.
4. That *<insert university>* ' investments do not align with its commitment to *<insert specific policy commitments of the university>*.

This could be a specific commitment to taking action on something like the climate crisis, or a more general commitment to something like the university's values.

This union resolves:

1. To mandate the <insert students' union/relevant students' union officer> to lobby the university to review their investment policy, in consultation with students and staff.
2. To mandate the <insert students' union/relevant students' union officer> to lobby the university to include these **5 key policy asks** in the new investment policy:
 - a) % allocation of portfolio dedicated to impact investment;
 - b) Commitment to vote in favour of shareholder resolutions on climate change at company Annual General Meetings (AGMs);
 - c) A clear, time-bound engagement escalation policy, including voting against management and ultimately divestment;
 - d) Regular disclosure (every 3-6 months) of holdings, impact (where appropriate), voting record and engagement activity; and
 - e) Student and staff representatives on finance governance boards.

This is a basic template for students' and students' union officers to adapt to suit their contexts.

Add specific facts relating to your university context in '*This union notes*', specific statements backing up your campaign aims in 'believes' and specific actions relating to context and aims in '*This union resolves*'.

Get in touch with us for support writing your policy by emailing melaniekee@sos-uk.org.
