

GSC Resolution in support of The Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign for Endowment Public Disclosure

Whereas the prison-industrial complex includes not only, jails, prisons, and other mechanisms of carceral control such as probation and parole but also encompasses “a set of symbiotic relationships among correctional communities, transnational corporations, media conglomerates, guards' unions, and legislative and court agendas,”¹ and

Whereas incarceration rates for women now surpass those for men, and people of African descent constitute 40% of the incarcerated population but only 13% of the US population;² police are twice as likely to use force against people of color;³ sixty percent of people in US jails are awaiting trial, many of whom are simply too poor to post bail,⁴ and

Whereas the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign (HPDC), a reparatory justice initiative organized by more than a dozen students from multiple Harvard schools, seeks to sever Harvard University’s financial ties to the prison-industrial complex, and

Whereas the research initiated by HPDC has revealed that among fifty of the largest companies comprising the prison-industrial complex, Harvard holds a tie to each of them for an amount totaling more than \$2 million dollars, and

Whereas the \$2 million dollar figure is drawn from Harvard’s Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, which account for only 1.21% of Harvard’s endowment, and it is therefore probable that the true valuation of Harvard’s financial investments into the prison-industrial complex approximate anywhere from tens of millions of dollars to hundreds of millions, and

¹ Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003), 107.

² Peter Wagner and Wendy Sawyer, “Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2018,” *Prison Policy Initiative*, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2018.html>.

³ “Police are twice as likely to use force against people of color,” *Prison Policy Initiative*, https://www.prisonpolicy.org/graphs/use_of_force_2015.html.

⁴ “For Better or For Profit: How the Bail Bonding Industry Stands in the Way of Fair and Effective Pretrial Justice,” *Justice Policy Institute*, http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/for_better_or_for_profit.pdf.

Whereas Harvard is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a “public charity,” implying accountability to the public, and

Whereas public disclosure of Harvard University’s investment portfolio is supported by more than 3,400 petition signatories, including faculty and student governments and collectives at the College, Kennedy School of Government, Law School, Medical School, Divinity School, Graduate School of Education, and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences,

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate Student Council supports the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign for public disclosure of the endowment of the university’s investment portfolio in order to investigate Harvard University’s investments in prisons, jails, police, and related economies.