



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Student Union Assembly 2nd floor, c/o Soar

June 17th, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Re: SUA Decision regarding simple-majority vote on Resolution calling for
Divestment from companies that profit from Israeli Settlements**

On Wednesday April 28th, University of California, Santa Cruz Undergraduate Student Association, Student Union Assembly, voted to pass the University Socially Responsible Investment Resolution. After the procedure of the vote was called into question, the resolution was put on a hold pending review of the SUA Constitution, SUA Bylaws, Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised and University Policy. After reviewing questions on the validity of the vote, I write this letter to explain that the resolution has failed for not meeting the required two-thirds majority due to a technical error in parliamentary procedure.

The initial vote failed after not reaching the required two-thirds vote as stated in Article IX Section C (10) (B) (IV) (a) that "Resolutions shall require a 2/3rds majority to pass." Following this decision, an assembly member made a motion to suspend a section of the bylaws which requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority. Therefore, the SUA body voted in favor to suspend Article IX Section C (10) (B) (II) (e) "Any Assembly Member may motion to Call the Resolution to Question before the time limit expires. Such a motion requires a 2/3rds majority to pass."

The previous vote suspended the two-thirds required for motions to Call the Resolution to question. This suspended the subsidiary motion and not the main motion. Although there may have been intent to suspend section IV (a), the Student Union Assembly suspended section II (e) with the end result still requiring a two-thirds majority on the resolution. The final vote on the resolution was twenty-two 'yes votes' and fourteen 'no votes' which is sixty-one percent (61.1%); this did not meet the two-thirds majority threshold.

Based on this rationale, the resolution fails and will not be implemented for 2013-2014. I've attached a comprehensive detailed report that outlines all of the questions I have received over the course of the last three weeks. This report also includes recommendations to next year's Student Union Assembly Representatives and Officers.

Sincerely,

Shaz Umer
Chair, Student Union Assembly
Undergraduate, Merrill College '14