



Office of the Faculty Senate

*Chair:* Jennifer A. Pinto-Martin, PhD MPH  
*Chair-elect:* Steven O. Kimbrough, PhD  
*Past Chair:* Santosh S. Venkatesh, PhD

October 18, 2018

Fossil Free Penn  
c/o Jacob Hershman  
by email to [jacoh@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jacoh@sas.upenn.edu)

Hello Jacob,

As Chair of the University Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee, I want to thank you and your team for the proposal in support of Penn's divestment from fossil fuels. I am writing to let you know that your proposal was discussed at Steering Committee yesterday and it was decided that it did not merit the appointment of an ad-hoc committee for further consideration.

I am sorry as I know you and your group put a lot of work into the proposal. I am sure you are disappointed to hear of the decision. However, I want you to know that the proposal was carefully considered and the discussion was robust. The main issue was the fact that this proposal did not represent a substantive change from the proposal that went forward to the Trustees in 2015.

However, it was acknowledged that circumstances with respect to global climate change have altered significantly over the past few years and that Penn needs to be even more vigilant and pro-active around these issues. To that end, President Gutmann spoke about her directive to Provost Pritchett and Craig Carnaroli to identify areas where Penn can do more.

The tri-Chairs - myself, Santosh Venkatesh (past Chair) and Steve Kimbrough (incoming Chair), would be happy to sit down with the FFP group to talk about your proposal and the discussion at Steering and to guide you as you move forward.

If you would like to arrange such a meeting, please reach out to Patrick Walsh, cc'd here, so he can find a mutually convenient time.

All the best,

Jennifer Pinto-Martin, PhD, MPH  
Viola MacInnes Professor  
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and Perelman School of Medicine  
Executive Director, Center for Public Health Initiatives  
Chair, University Faculty Senate  
215-898-2992  
[pinto@upenn.edu](mailto:pinto@upenn.edu)

CC: Steven Kimbrough, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect  
Leslie Kruhly, Secretary of the University of Pennsylvania  
Santosh Venkatesh, Faculty Senate Past Chair  
J. Patrick Walsh, Faculty Senate Executive Assistant