

Students seek to divest from troublesome investments

BY REBECCA DOU
STAFF WRITER

Anyone can talk about the values they support, but how many people can say they put their money where their values are?

Not many, and that is why four Guilford College students — junior Julia Draper, senior Tom Clement and sophomores Lillian Collins and Marek Wojtala — spent the January term analyzing how well Guilford's endowment investments align with its core values.

"It's really difficult to tell what someone's priorities are when they talk about them, but it's really easy to tell by the way that they spend their money," said Draper. "That's what Strategic Reinvestment Scholars is about: asking Guilford to live its core values by the way that it has invested \$65 million."

SRS began its investigation by finding out how Guilford invested its endowment, which is primarily made up of donations. They realized that Guilford was actually invested in several problematic

funds, like a fund that tracks the S&P 500.

In other words, Guilford invested in a fund that includes companies that participate in troublesome practices, like investing in fossil fuels or supporting unethical labor standards. This contradicts Guilford's core values of equality, justice and stewardship.

"I expected that we would be invested in a couple of the mega

movements," said Clement. "This could be an example of that, and it could also re-establish Guilford as an institution that is committed to sustainability."

Another problem with investing in an index fund with so many different companies is that divesting at all means divesting from the entire fund and all the companies within it, not just the ones with disagreeable practices.

Another solution would be to reinvest money into the community.

"We have also looked into reinvesting the divested money into projects on campus, like solar panels and geothermal heating, so we could get our return back through the energy we saved," said Wojtala.

To market these solutions, the SRS decided to take an approach

want them to," said Draper. "We decided that this time, we wanted to try understanding the hierarchy at Guilford so we can make a decision that can last."

They also sent a letter to faculty and staff asking for their feedback and support.

"Having worked on this issue with a class, back during Strategic Long Range Plan One, and finding that the College was ready for 'ethical purchasing' but not 'ethical investment,' I am certainly enthusiastic about this initiative," said Max Carter, director of the Friends Center and campus ministry coordinator.

The next step is to implement a drafted, socially responsible investment policy to guide investment decisions and join the existing coalition of colleges, local governments and other organizations that are pushing for fossil fuel divestment.

The hope is that all of this will help Guilford put its money where its mouth is by investing in companies that reflect the core values of the institution.

'It's really difficult to tell what someone's priorities are when they talk about them all the time, but it's really easy to tell by the way they spend their money.'

Julia Draper, junior

Ninth president chosen

FERNANDES, FORMERLY OF GALLAUDET U. & UNC-A, IS OFFICIALLY OURS

BY CONNOR WILSON
STAFF WRITER

On April 15, Jane Fernandes was announced as Guilford College's ninth president and successor to Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar.

"I feel that my whole life has formed a path leading me to Guilford," said Fernandes in her official reaction statement. "As a person born deaf, I have profound appreciation for the value of silence ... It is rare to find a kindred community that values both silence and dialogue."

Since the announcement of the new president, the community has been buzzing about Fernandes and why she was the best fit.

"She was the only candidate who said she wanted to be here," said Kami Rowan, associate professor of music and presidential search committee member. "None of the other candidates said that."

After Chabotar announced that he was stepping down, the presidential search committee narrowed a list of 95 strong applicants list to three finalists; the board of trustees then reached a Quakerly agreement on Fernandes.

Fernandes brings to the College her experiences as a provost and on-the-ground, for-the-students vice chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and as a major administrator at Gallaudet University.

As vice chancellor for academic affairs at UNCA, Fernandes managed 230 faculty and 161 staff while administering a budget of more than \$40 million.

Some of her other responsibilities at UNCA included academic support programs, admissions and financial aid, and the university's library and information technology services.

When the search committee was formed, the members outlined some of their ideal expectations for the next president. Among them was maintaining a deep appreciation for the College's Quaker-inspired values and staying dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal arts.

"You're not hiring a resume, you are hiring a person — a person who has an intangible connection to the school," said Ed Winslow, trustee and rising board chair.

Fernandes' commitment to the school showed during her open on-campus session on April 1.

"I went to all of the sessions," said Rowan. "(Fernandes) gave her presentation for some of the staff and went to the student session. That session really challenged her, and she showed the positive change that comes from a community setting."

Fernandes did not repeat the same presentation for both the staff and student session. Instead, she responded to the student-specific concerns and adapted a better understanding of the students' commitments to transparency and to the Quaker values.

"When she was asked questions, her answers were really catered to the students," said sophomore Josh Williams.

Fernandes' duties as Guilford president will officially begin July 1.

Kent Grumbles talks staff wages

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SALARIES ARE NEAR THE 44TH PERCENTILE, HOURLY STAFF NEAR 50TH PERCENTILE

BY VICTOR LOPEZ
SENIOR WRITER

The Guilfordian asked Kent Grumbles, the director of institutional research and assessment, how staff salaries at Guilford College fared by the numbers.

Q: Can you tell me what the pay percentile is for staff members?

A: Staff — as in, professional staff — salaries are at the 44th percentile. That is the average percentile ranking for 89 different positions.

That means that among our comparison group (in this case, our comparison group is all private colleges with a budget similar to Guilford's), Guilford professional staff are at the 44th percentile, meaning 56 percent of all people in that job make more and 43 percent make less.

Q: Who are considered staff at Guilford?

A: Support staff are hourly positions: such as security guards, housekeepers, grounds people and some clerical positions. Their average salary percentile is 50 percent, meaning half of the comparison group makes more and half makes less.

The average faculty salary is at the 27th percentile.

Q: How far does your input extend?

A: I'm not in any way involved in the decision making process at Guilford other than providing data for others.

I collect data from other offices on campus, and use that data for reporting purposes, but I'm not asked to make judgments or decisions based on that data.

The president, vice presidents and ultimately the board are the decision-making entities.

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