# NEWS

*"For there is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it"*
**AMANDA GORMAN** AMERICAN POET

## Among trustees, nonprofit head stands out as Trump critic

BY LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTER

An environmental advocacy leader who sits on the Yale Corporation — the University's main governing body — has publicly denounced President Donald Trump and his administration multiple times in recent months.

In a series of X posts earlier this month, Fred Krupp '75 GRD '22, the president of the Environmental Defense Fund and a Yale trustee, condemned Trump's reversal of a scientific finding that allowed the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases. Krupp and the environmental advocacy nonprofit he leads have criticized Trump repeatedly throughout his second term.

University Spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in an email to the News that Krupp's views about the endangerment finding were his own, and that he was not speaking for the University when he made those remarks.

Krupp did not respond to requests for comment placed to his office and through multiple media contacts at the Environmental Defense Fund.

In October 2024, University President Maurie McInnis adopted a report that advised leaders across Yale's administration to refrain from commenting on matters of public importance unless they impact Yale's mission. In 2024, the authors of the report told the News that leaders will not face repercussions for violating the recommendations.

The report does not specifically mention the University's board of trustees. It advises that its recommendations apply to "central administrators," deans and leaders of academic departments and other Yale programs.

Since adopting the report, McInnis has issued statements condemning the National Institutes of Health's move to cut funding for indirect research costs and urging members of the Yale community to ask senators to challenge the Republican tax-and-spending bill that included a provision that would increase the tax on Yale's endowment investment returns. She also signed a joint statement in April criticizing Trump's "unprecedented government overreach and political interference."

But McInnis, citing the report, has been silent on other issues relating to the Trump administration. Last January, she told the News that she was not certain whether "a lot of public pronouncements make a difference." She has issued fewer campus-wide statements on national issues than her predecessor, Peter Salovey, collections of Salovey's statements as president show.

Krupp has taken a different approach. A few days after Trump returned to office last January, the Environmental Defense Fund put out a statement rebuking Trump for withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, an international treaty on combating climate change, and Krupp made a similar post on X.

Most recently, Krupp critiqued President Donald Trump's recent move to deregulate greenhouse gas emissions in a press release and in a series of posts on X, where he described the move as "unlawful."

Krupp's posts have described Trump's repeal of an Obama-era endangerment finding, which allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate six greenhouse gases. The Trump administration repealed the finding, which significantly rolled back the EPA's regulatory authority, according to a press release from Trump and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.

Krupp and the Environmental Defense Fund denounced the move after it was reported on Feb. 9 in the Wall Street Journal.

"The unlawful, year-long effort by the political leadership at EPA rejects the overwhelming evidence that climate pollution threatens everyone's health and safety," Krupp wrote in a Feb. 10 press release.

In a Feb. 12 post on X, Krupp called the Trump administration's repeal of the endangerment finding "extreme" and urged people to pay attention to the decision.



YALE NEWS

Fred Krupp, a Yale trustee and the president of the Environmental Defense Fund, has denounced the Trump administrtion in posts and press releases since the president began his second term.

"Zeldin prejudged the outcome & rushed to complete this harmful action with undue haste, saying on the day he proposed repeal that the Trump Admin 'is driving a dagger' into the Endangerment Finding," Krupp wrote.

Throughout the last year, Krupp has critiqued Trump's EPA. In October, he wrote on X that the Trump administration's rollback of methane regulations was seeking to "undo" progress in methane regulations. Krupp's post coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the Aliso Canyon methane leak — a leak that reportedly released 100,000 tons of methane gas near Los Angeles, according to an EDF report.

Krupp was elected to the Yale Corporation as an alumni fellow in 2022 in the first nomination cycle after the board abolished its petition process, in which prospective candidates collected signatures to get on the ballot in alumni trustee elections. In the 2021 alumni fellow election, the climate action group Yale Forward petitioned on behalf of a candidate focused on climate issues.

When Krupp was nominated the following year, a founder of Yale Forward said Krupp likely would not have been chosen as a Yale Forward petition candidate, had the petition process still existed, but praised Krupp's "environmental credentials," the News reported at the time.

In October, Krupp met with students at a residential college tea ahead of a Yale Corporation meeting. At the tea, Krupp spoke about his work with the Environmental Defense Fund.

Krupp has not been the only trustee to criticize Trump.

In January 2025, Yale trustee and former president of Morehouse University David Thomas '78 GRD '84 '86 said that Trump's freeze on grants and loans was an "existential threat as great as the pandemic" to CNBC. Thomas was the president of Morehouse, a historically Black university, at the time.

Yale is one of two Ivy League universities that has thus far avoided targeted funding cuts during Trump's second term. The Trump administration froze billions in federal grants to Harvard last spring after Trump said Harvard failed to protect Jewish students during pro-Palestinian protests.

The next Yale Corporation meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday.

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## Claiming endowment supports ICE, students renew divestment calls

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTER

At a teach-in, members of the Yale Endowment Justice Collective advised students on how to organize against Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in New Haven and renewed calls for Yale to discontinue its investments in companies linked to the agency.

At the Tuesday evening meeting, which took place in Phelps Hall and was attended by about 30 students, organizers called for students to take action to combat the presence of ICE in New Haven and advocate for Yale to divest from corporations they said are linked to ICE, especially the data analysis software company Palantir, which students recently asked Yale to divest from because of its ties to Israel and ICE. The News could not confirm whether Yale's endowment is invested in Palantir or if Yale has other financial ties to the company.

"I'm partly motivated by how dire the situation is for people here and the fact that ICE is operating in New Haven, but then, of course, also largely motivated by Yale's investments and that complicity," Abraham Rebollo-Trujillo DRA '26, who attended Tuesday's event, said in an interview.

As the child of immigrants, Rebollo-Trujillo said she is "very plugged into immigrant rights."

Since President Donald Trump began his second term last January, his administration has enacted a mass deportation campaign. Last month, during an ICE crackdown in Minneapolis, federal agents killed two U.S. citizens, Renée Good and Alex Pretti.

The Endowment Justice Collective meeting slideshow was structured into three main sections, entitled "ICE out of our streets," "ICE out of our endowment" and "how we'll win." Organizers advised attendees on how to identify and respond to the presence of ICE officers in New Haven.

Organizers also described what they said were Yale's investments in organizations that support ICE and explained the process of making divestment proposals. The presenters explained how students can help immigrants in New Haven by signing up for ICE watch shifts at the New Haven courthouse and writing letters to trustees on the Yale Corporation and President Maurie McInnis about divestment.

"The Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility considered this topic as part its review process and did not recommend any changes to investment eligibility policies, based on Yale's criteria," University spokesperson Tina Posterli wrote in an email to the News, referring to the committee's review of students' recent Palantir divestment pitch. Posterli linked a frequently-asked-questions page on the committee's website that details the circumstances under which it recommends a divestment policy.

"It's important to note that just because a topic is reviewed by the ACIR, it does not mean the Endowment holds the investment," Posterli added, referring to the investor responsibility committee. "The university encourages all groups with concerns to follow the ACIR process."

Presenters at the teach-in explained how to identify ICE vehicles and agents. They advised students to look for unmarked vehicles with tinted windows and agents wearing either identifying badges or symbols or casual clothing, and carrying radios and handcuffs. The presenters encouraged attendees to take action, including by joining groups accompanying immigrants to court and signing up for the ICE watch.

In the second section of the presentation, Endowment Justice Collective leaders wrote that investment decisions by the Yale Corporation can connect to "extractive and exploitative industries."

The presenters criticized the lengthy process of advocating for divestment and a perceived lack of transparency about the Yale Corporation's actions. According to the advisory committee's webpage, the board of trustees makes decisions about investments after hearing from the Corporation Committee on Investor Responsibility — a standing committee of trustees that is supported by the advisory committee.

Last fall, students in the Endowment Justice Collective went through what they described as the "proper channels" to call for Yale's divestment from Palantir.

"Palantir blurs data privacy laws, relies on mass surveillance to make predictions, and then supplies ICE with a map of deportation targets," students wrote on the slides they presented at the teach-in.

The New York Times reported last month that according to two Homeland Security officials, ICE uses a Palantir database to "find and track individuals for deportation." In April, Wired reported that ICE was paying Palantir $30 million to build a surveillance platform that would provide "near real-time" information.

In January, the advisory committee rejected students' fall pitch for Yale to divest from Palantir, as well as other corporations, including natural gas companies and weapons manufacturers.

Isabel Matos '28, referencing Palantir's deals with the federal government — specifically those with the Department of Homeland Security and ICE — said, "that's something that we believe is absolutely in violation of the ethical principles that the endowment ought to be invested through."

According to Matos, the group has not had any contact with the advisory committee or other administrators since their pitch was rejected.

The slideshow ended on an optimistic note, with examples of past student protests that led to divestments on various ethical grounds.

"Student organizing at Yale has won before, and will win again," the presenters declared on a slide referencing Yale students' decades-long history of protesting for divestment.

One example the presenters mentioned was from 2006, when student activism led to the University's divestment from oil companies operating in Sudan during the genocide in Darfur.

According to Matos, the Endowment Justice Collective held an "identical" teach-in on Thursday that took place in a lecture hall in Linsly-Chittenden Hall.

"I would say we filled the room," Matos said, referring to a lecture hall with a capacity of 149, according to the University registrar's website.

"The Ethical Investor," which according to the advisory committee's website contains guidelines that the University follows when making investment decisions, was published in 1972.

*Anna Koontz contributed reporting.*

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The Endowment Justice Collective held a teach-in on Tuesday evening calling for Yale to divest from companies connected to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and for students to take action against the agency.