

PRESS RELEASE: LORRAINE ARVIN AND JOHN KROGER ARE IN VIOLATION OF REED POLICY

A month ago, Reedies Against Racism demanded that Lorraine Arvin sign a contract indicating the college's intent to change to a more ethical operating bank. This demand is supported by Reed's Investment Responsibility Policy and Anti-Racism Statements (see 1., 2., and 3). Lorraine Arvin cites the Investment Responsibility Policy as a reason why she must wait for an in-person board meeting before she can address the issue. But the policy (outlined below) indicates that such matters can be addressed more urgently, without a meeting, in the event that the "issue at hand is of a compelling social or moral character."

Prison slavery is an issue of compelling social and moral character. The community agrees, as we can see from the 800+ signatures RAR has collected from students, faculty, alumni, and staff. Our city agrees, as it has already cut ties with Wells Fargo as its operating bank. Furthermore, Reed's Anti-Racism Statement explicitly encourages disruptive protest and indicates that we have a responsibility to resist racism. John Kroger and Lorraine Arvin's complicity constitute a violation of these college policies.

Therefore, **Reedies Against Racism is justified in occupying Eliot for the following reasons:**

1. That the educational institution of Reed College should center the needs of people of color:

An educational institution, with the special obligation of protecting the widest possible expression of divergent viewpoints, and the special responsibility of protecting intellectually dissenting minorities, may of necessity be more abstaining on controversial social, political, and moral issues than individuals or groups who exercise ownership but do not have such special responsibilities.

2. That the college should act if the issue at hand reflects widely-held, or universally-held social or moral positions:

In acting on non-economic questions the College recognizes that its traditions require it to act only where the issue at hand is of a compelling social or moral character and where the action taken reflects widely-held, perhaps almost universally-held social or moral positions. It should refrain from actions where significant divergence of opinion is perceptible among college constituencies or members.

3. That the treasurer can address concerns at times other than board meetings if the matter is urgent.

The Treasurer will normally report such concerns to the Committee at its regular meetings, but may do so more frequently where the matter is of urgent concern.

4. The anti-racism statement states that it is our responsibility to disrupt systems of oppression and reform/ rid ourselves of policies that feed into said systems.

We affirm our responsibility to continuously learn about and disrupt systems of privilege, inequality, and oppression, and to reform our programs, policies, pedagogy, and practices in accordance with this responsibility.