

FEATURES

# The ‘process’: How change happens under Eisgruber



“Whether students protest or not, I encourage them to engage with the **community-wide processes** through which policy is made at the University. That is how **change happens at Princeton”**

*President Christopher  
Eisgruber '83*



In interviews with the ‘Prince,’ student protesters who participated in activist movements at various points across Eisgruber’s 11-year tenure expressed the same frustration. They view his steadfast commitment to procedure as a roadblock in the path to progress, making change feel problematically slow-moving and impersonal.



There is no monolithic process – and in some cases, no formally outlined process at all – to bring about policy change at the University.



Advocates backing demands that do not explicitly target the endowment – like the BJL’s call for a University-wide racial reckoning – are left without formalized guidelines to affect change. Without a clear process, their demands simply faced Eisgruber – or rather, sat at his feet.

For advocates specifically seeking changes in the management of the University’s endowment, such as the 2020 fossil fuel divestment petition and this fall’s Israeli divestment proposal, there is a clearer path.



“I do think I need to be an advocate for a process and a protector of that process, but it’s really important that our process involves independent judgments, both by the committee and by the Board of Trustees”

*President Christopher Eisgruber ’83*

