Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policy (ACCRIP)

Minutes of the Meeting October 28th 2011

DRAFT

Present:
Christopher Bull (Chair)
Naoko Shibusawa
Sandra Seibel
Anne Sharp

Vazira F-Y Zamindar
Jamie Dunn
Haley Kossek
Sean Dinces
Nikki Fadaifard

Two members from the SJP
1. Gavriel Cutipa-Zorn
2. Michael Becker

AGENDA

1. Welcome to new members
   a. Introductions

Introduction of attending committee members:
Christopher Bull from the Engineering department has been a committee member for three years and is the new committee chairman. Sean Dinces is a graduate student studying American studies, this is his first year serving on the committee, and he is replacing Ruhan Nagra. *Naoko Shibusawa* is an art historian and this will be her second year as a committee representative. *Vazira F-Y Zamindar* is an associate Professor of History and is a new committee member. *Hayley Kossek* is the undergraduate representative of the committee, serving her second year.
Jamie Dunn is from the media services department and a new committee member.
Anne Sharp is a representative from the investment office. *Sandra Siebel* is also a representative from the investment office and has been serving on the committee since its commencement 11 years ago.
Fred Alper is a new alumni member who was unable to attend the meeting due to travelling conflict.

   b. Discussion of what we work on

The committee discusses issues brought to it by student groups (such as the Students for Social Justice in Palestine, a current issue being looked into). Another ongoing issue the committee works on is concerns raised by students on the investment of Brown's endowment and the transparency of the investment of the endowment. The committee also votes on proxies. The committee has a charter, as well as voting guidelines, which give general direction on how to vote on proxies.

Recent examples of committee work: The committee made a recommendation to the President to divest in HEI, a hotel company that was brought to the committee's attention by a student group concerned about the companies questionable treatment of workers.

This September there was a proxy to be voted on involving the company Sandra Lee. On the company website they had statements about the companies political contributions. The committee Chair looked at the proxy voting guidelines, the issue fell under an existing guideline, and the chair voted accordingly .

<u>2. Review of current issues</u>

c. Sudan

In the past the committee decided on a list of companies to divest from in relation to the their involvement in Sudan. The committee needs to work on a way to maintain the lists accuracy.

d. Palestine-Israel

The Students for Social Justice in Palestine raised concerns to the committee about American companies who were directly or indirectly selling weapons or equipment to Israel, which is used for the displacement of Palestinians. The Committee is currently still not in agreement on the Palestine –Israel issue and research is ongoing.

e. Transparency

The Committee has been asked to either respond to inquiries about Brown's investment holdings. There are problems with relaying the information because of the diversity in which Brown invests. Brown has money with outside money managers, as well as in co-mingled funds, as well as mutual funds and directly held investments. In the case of co-mingled funds both parties sign a confidentiality agreement and names are not exchanged. In this case Brown cannot control what companies they invest in and therefor cannot inform the public. Brown has a small share of directly held investments in which they are aware of the companies invested in however this changes frequently and is not available to the public.

Brown has guidelines, for example they do not place money in managers that will invest in tobacco.

The committee members inquired what the guidelines are, and how they are acted upon. The example used to explain the situation was Sudan and Tobacco. The committee looked to peer institutions and how they handled the situation, as well as completing private research. The committee then created a resolution that was to President who the presents it to the Committee.

The committee currently does not have a response that satisfies those inquiring about Browns investment holdings. The endowment is meant to support the university in perpetuity and also has legal obligations to abide by. In keeping that in mind the committee needs to work on a response for those inquiring further information on Browns investment holdings.

f. Information and support organizations

The committee is currently looking into companies that provide information on companies and that are specifically concerned with social justice and environmental issues.

i. Responsible Endowment Coalition (REC),

A non-profit organization, research showed that this company seemed more interested in creating and supporting committee's such as ACRRIP as opposed to providing research.

ii. Conflict Risk Network (CRN)

The Conflict Risk Network is another company that provides research on variety of concerns. On the website there is a folder which contains information that committee members can access for further information. The chair discussed with a CRN representative and believes for an annual membership fee of 1500 dollars they can provide the committee with quarterly reports on companies to review.

3. Report from students who attended REC workshop

Hayley went to the REC workshop in New York City. She reported that REC is a non-profit that supports the day-to-day functional operations of committee's such as ACCRIP. They want to encourage institutions to move money from large banks to smaller community banks.
Whether they have a membership is unclear. Dan Affleck, the executive director of REC has requested to come and talk to the committee and see how closely we can work with each other.

4. Plan for AY 2011-2012

1. Maintained of the group's decisions such as the Sudan company list.
2. There also is not an agreement within the committee on the Palestine issue.
3. Update the proxy voting guidelines
4. Clarify exactly what research the CRN Company will provide
5. The SJP would like to make a presentation.
6. Dan Affleck from REC would also like to schedule a time to meet with the committee.
7. Sandra Seibel will give a presentation about the investment office and answer questions regarding proxies