

Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies (ACCRIP)
Minutes on the Meeting of January 23rd, 2013

Present:

Christopher Bull (Chair)
Naoko Shibusawa
Vazira Zamindar
Anne Sharpe
Karyn Sosinski
David Muller
Jamie Dunn
Sandra Seibel
Julie Vanier
Sean Dinces
Gary Pidula
Daniel Moraff
Ian Trupin
Emilio Leanza

Absent:

Stanley Griffith

AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes on the meeting of November 26th, 2012 were unanimously approved.

2. Welcome to New Members

David Muller, an alumni representative, and Julie Vanier from the Department of Advancement were welcomed to the ACCRIP board.

3. ACIR Letter to SEC

Undergraduate representative Ian Trupin recently brought to the committee's attention an open letter to the SEC published by the New School's Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility (ACIR). This letter, in support of petition 4-637, calls for a rule "to Require Public Companies to Disclose to Shareholders the Use of Corporate Resources for Political Activities." The issue was added to the agenda due to considerations of timeliness. Several members of the committee questioned what ACCRIP's role in the campaign and to what extent the same goal could be accomplished through working with mutual funds. A motion was made calling for Stanley Griffith to draft an approving comment to ACIR's letter and, then, vote to approve the comment via email. The motion passed and it was suggested that further research be conducted on the role of mutual funds.

3. Coal

The committee renewed discussion on whether or not to recommend divesting from the leading fifteen companies profiting from the extraction and burning of coal. Several members

of the committee raised the issue of accounting for change within a company's portfolio and who would keep track of the extent to which a company is involved in coal if the university decides to divest. It was also suggested that the committee have an opportunity over the next week to carefully make edits onto a new draft. The motion was then put forward to recommend divesting from the fifteen coal companies indicted for environmental, labor and health concerns by the Brown University Divest Coal Campaign. The motion passed with six in favor, two opposed and one abstention. The committee will work on harmonizing a letter recommending divestment in the following weeks.

4. Possible BUCC presentation/Palestine

In President Christina Paxson's response to a letter recently submitted by ACCRIP recommending divestment from companies profiting off of the Israel-Palestine conflict, she suggested partnering with the BUCC (Brown University Community Council) to expand campus dialogue on the issue. One crucial question posed by several members of the committee was what are we hoping to gain from a BUCC conversation and what specific discussion questions would we propose. One proposal was that a BUCC discussion could be based around the question of how to assess culpability in political violence. As the committee has only listened to presentations by the Brown Student's for Justice in Palestine (BSJP), members agreed that, before contacting the BUCC, the other side of the Israel-Palestine issue needed to be given a chance to present. The next meeting will now feature presentations, at separate times, by groups representing both sides of the issue. It was also agreed that members of the committee would collaborate via email in creating a list of questions to ask both groups.

5. Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next two meetings were scheduled for February 6th and 20th.

6. Voting Guidelines

The motion was proposed to table this item for a future meeting. It was accepted unanimously.