Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies (ACCRIP)
Minutes on the Meeting of March 6, 2013

Present:
Christina Paxson (University President)
Kimberly Roskiewicz (Office of the President)
Christopher Bull (Chair)
Naoko Shibusawa
Karyn Sosinski*
David Muller
Julie Vanier
Vazira Zamindar
Ian Trupin
Daniel Moraff
Sean Dinces
Stanley Griffith
Jamie Dunn
Sandra Seibel*

Absent:
Anne Sharp*

* Investment office, non-voting

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous ACCRIP Meeting

Minutes from the February 26, 2013 ACCRIP meeting were unanimously approved with the addition of text from the BSI/SJP student presentations included in the document.

2. Discussion with Brown University President Christina Paxson on ACCRIP's Role

The President of Brown University, Christina Paxson, joined the ACCRIP board in a discussion on how she views the Committee's charge. Having read the charter and conducted in-depth research on previous and current campaigns calling for divestment, Paxson defined ACCRIP as a non-political advisory board that balances the needs of maintaining a healthy endowment and making sure the University makes ethical investments. Paxson, reiterating the ethical as opposed to political role of ACCRIP, believes that ACCRIP's advisory decisions should be based on a series of articulated principles and consistency in divestiture. She commended ACCRIP members on balancing the difficulty of being an advisory board that is also highly visible and public. Other issues raised include: an evaluation of the process for disclosing Committee members' potential conflicts of interest, an in-depth conversation on the distinction between ethics and politics, the role of materiality in divestment and to what extent the endowment should be taken into consideration if ACCRIP is to play an advisory role based on ethical/moral criteria.