

Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policy (ACCRIP)
Minutes on the Meeting of May 1, 2013

Present:

Christopher Bull (Chair)
Naoko Shibusawa
*Anne Sharp
*Sandra Seibel
Stanley Griffith
David Muller
James Dunn
Ian Trupin
Daniel Moraff
Julie Vanier

Absent:

Sean Dinces
Vazira Zamindar
*Karyn Sosinski

*–indicates non-voting members of the Committee

Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from last meeting
2. Debrief on meeting with ad hoc committee
3. Discuss whether to take any action on BSJP request
4. Bylaws update (Russell Carey will look at them, but not until after Commencement)
5. Chair for next year
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Next meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of April 24, 2013

Due to concerns on a paragraph related to discussions over terms stipulating conflicts of interest, approval of minutes from the April 24th meeting were tabled until the Committee's next meeting on May 15th.

2. Debrief on April 26th Meeting with Brown Corporation's Ad Hoc Committee

- Members of the Committee attended a meeting with an *ad hoc* committee formed by the Brown Corporation on April 26, 2013. The meeting focused on ACCRIP's recommendation regarding divestment from 15 major U.S.-based coal producing and/or burning companies.
- Topics discussed at the meeting, according to ACCRIP members who were there, included questions regarding justification behind the decision, its impact, research drawn upon and potential alternative forms of action other than divestment. Notes from the *ad hoc* committee meeting will be shared with ACCRIP.

3. BSJP Request

- The Committee returned to a discussion on a request by the Brown Students for Justice in Palestine (BSJP) to divest from U.S.-based companies engaged in business practices that profit from human rights abuses in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.
- One of the undergraduate representatives of the Committee presented a research document on social harms present in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). The document includes data on illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT as well as economic and public health effects of the occupation.
- Committee members expressed concern with the sources cited by the document. It was agreed that, to consult a more comprehensive research base, the Committee would compile a cumulative document containing an extensive array of reports and data collected over the past year.
- The issue was tabled until the next meeting, when more research will be available to aid Committee members in reaching a decision on the proposal.

4. Bylaws Update

- Russell Carey, the Vice-President for Planning & Policy at Brown, has agreed to review the new draft of the Committee's bylaws. Carey's review will take place after commencement.

5. New Chair

- The process of selecting a new chair for ACCRIP was tabled to the next Committee meeting.

6. Old Business

- There were no issues related to old business brought to the attention of the Committee.

7. New Business

- ACCRIP voted on two proxy issues wherein procedure was unclear based on the proxy voting guidelines.
- Although several Committee members voiced uncertainty with regards to the lack of research on the issues, ACCRIP voted to support both proxy resolutions. The final voting tally was five in favor and two opposed.
- General reasons for the affirmative votes were varied; perhaps the most significant being that the Committee interpreted ACCRIP's proxy voting guidelines as covering environmental issues.
- As the current research assistant will be studying abroad for the duration of the upcoming fall semester, the Committee will have to place a job request on the University's employment register to select a new candidate.

8. Next Meeting

- The Committee agreed for the next meeting to take place on May 15, 2013 at 9:30 am.