Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policy (ACCRIP)
Meeting Minutes for Meeting of March 21, 2014

Present

Chris Bull (Chair)
Daniella Flores (research assistant)
Geeta Chougule
Julie Vanier
Michael Satlow
Stanley Griffith (on phone) (alumni rep)
*Sandra Seibel
Sara Matthiesen (Grad student rep)
Vazira F-Y Zamindar

*Investment Office

Observers: None

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from February 28 meeting
2. Discussion of possible actions regarding gun manufacturers
3. Letter for Ian
4. Changing Committee's May Meeting
5. Franklin Resources update
6. New business/Occupy Territory
7. Adjourn

Minutes

0. Pre-Agenda Business

Franklin Resources was added to the agenda.

1. Approval of minutes from February 28th meeting.

The Committee approved the meeting minutes unanimously.

2. Discussion of possible actions regarding gun manufacturers.

The Committee began discussion on divestment from gun manufacturers, following the recent violent events involving assault weapons.

The deliberation centered on the social harm associated with these products and the University's ethical standing in the gun violence debate. The Chair defined social harm from the Charter: "Social harm is defined, for the purpose of this Charter, as the harmful impact that the activities of a company or corporations have on consumers, employers, or other persons or on the human or natural environment."

Research detailing the merits of both the FOR and AGAINST divestment positions was reviewed and discussed with advocates for both sides.

The Committee decided to table the discussion. The Research Assistant was charged with providing more information regarding specific manufacturers of assault weapons.

3. Letter for Ian.

The Committee agreed that the letter will be signed at the next meeting.

4. Changing the May/April Meeting.

Chris will send out a When2Meet to agree on the date. The Committee agreed that there should be both an April and a May meeting.

5. Franklin Resources proxy.

The Committee's vote "not with management" was not successfully processed by the sub-Committee due to insufficient processing time. A decision will be reached without taking into account the Committee's recommendation.

6. New business.

It was suggested to follow-up and reflect the Committee's engagement in the Occupy issue. President Paxson's reply to a Nov. 12, 2012 letter sent by the Committee identified a potential solution: scholarly forums for campus-wide discussions on this issue. Her second suggestion was to write a formal, public letter to involved companies stating the University's concerns without compromising Brown's fiscal responsibility.

It was discussed whether it is in the Committee's jurisdiction to take such actions. Members suggested that President Paxson should spearhead the program in partnership with willing University departments. The Chair emphasized that the Occupy territories should be the main prompt for these discussions.

The Committee tabled the discussion and agreed to reconsider the issue in the next meeting,

7. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned unanimously.