

Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policy (ACCRIP)
Meeting Minutes for Meeting of April 26, 2016

Members Present

Vazira F-Y Zamindar (faculty)
Paul Gutierrez (Grad)
Caitlin Murphy (staff)
Naoko Shibusawa (faculty)
Lars Tiffany (staff)
Michael Satlow (faculty)
Ann Furuyama (ugrad)
Cameron Johnson (ugrad)
David Muller (alum, phone)

Members Absent

James Kase (alum)

Guests:

Jane Keats, Investment office
Anne Sharp, Investment Office
Molly Landis, Investment Office
Cary Krosinsky (faculty, professor of PLCY1710: The Theory and Practice of Sustainable Investing)
Timmons Roberts (faculty)
Sophie Purdom (student)
Lauren Maunus ('19)
James Woodwell ('18)
Harold Bracy ('19)
Adam Janik ('19)
Charlotte Senders ('18)
Kai Salem ('18)
Chris Powell (sustainability office)
Solveig Xia ('17)
Maya Faulstich-Hon ('17.5)
Lead Haykin ('16)
Angelica Arellano ('18)
Kari Malkki ('16)

Observers: Joshua Chavez (student secretary/RA)

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from March 03 and March 15
2. Discussion of Fossil Fuel Proposal
3. Adjourn

Meeting Notes

1. Approve minutes from March 03 and March 15

Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Fossil Fuel Proposal Discussion

The committee and guests (including representatives from Fossil Free Brown) discuss the draft Fossil Fuel Proposal. Student representatives indicate wide support on campus for divestment from fossil fuels. Many students are in favor of divestment and believe in the message it would send to the fossil fuel industry. The representative from Brown's Climate Change Lab agrees and emphasizes "the age of fossil fuels is ending," and suggests that the committee push for action to happen sooner rather than later. Many emphasize the need for a much quicker timeline for action. The room discusses compelling arguments for divestment, and discusses the options of sustainable investment. Representatives from the investment office encourage searching for routes beyond divestment. It is suggested that the committee speak with the President's office as well. Advocates for sustainable investment assert the advantages of pursuing many sustainable investment options rather than solely divesting. They suggest that while divestment could be financially negative for the university, sustainable investing moves further beyond divestment and "wins" financially. The UN Principles on Responsible Investment are discussed as one roadmap towards sustainable investment. While many are pro-sustainable investment options, there is also a discussion of the power and importance of keeping the vocabulary of "divestment." A new proposal is to be put together using the input gathered at today's meeting to be discussed at the May 12th meeting of ACCRIP.

3. Adjourn

Committee unanimously votes to adjourn at 1:15pm.