**Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policy (ACCRIP)**

Meeting Minutes for Meeting of March 12, 2019

**Members Present**

Chi-Ming Hai (chair)

Kayla Rosen (alum)

**Members Absent**

Fulvio Domini (faculty)

Julie Pham (ugrad)

Andrew McIntosh (academic finance)

Lisa Di Carlo (faculty)

David Muller (alum)

Jamie Kase (alum)

Taylan Susam (grad)

Joshua Jiang (ugrad)

**Guests**

Anne Sharpe (Investment Office)

Vikas Rajasekaran (RA)

Lucy Galoyan (President Paxson's Office)

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions
2. Senior Director, Brown University Insurance & Purchase Services on Purchasing Standards
3. Discussion of Broadening the Scope of ACCRIP

**Meeting Notes:**

1. Senior Director, Brown University Insurance & Purchase Services on Purchasing Standards
    a. People aren't aware that there are policies on insurance and purchase services that recommend buying local and sustainable products
        i. The university doesn't have mandates because there is no centralized purchasing process
        ii. The policies are only used if an individual specifically calls the purchasing office and asks for recommendations
        iii. In the past, the purchasing office focused on just recording transactions, not strategically analyzing the purchases
        iv. ESG focus has increased on the investment side, but has not picked up on the supply chain side
        v. Many suppliers are one-time purchases or small niche supplies so they wouldn't feel the need to implement ESG policies
            1. Faculty and the Brown community need to be informed on information that purchasing division can offer
            2. Centralized process might not make sense as an example people in labs need to get the equipment compatible with their labs
                a. Even on scientific standards, there are preferred suppliers like Fischer Scientific and Office Depot.
            3. Brown could ask for ESG policies when companies bid for contracts
                a. Delicate balance between saving money and also buying local and sustainable
            4. Division has been trying to get better data and financial reporting to analyze where the money is going by category
                a. Only purchases 3,000 dollars or more come through purchasing division
            5. Dining services and facilities have a separate system that don't necessarily flow through purchasing
                a. Dining works with student groups to buy local

6. Biggest issue for purchasing:
    a. Implementing process improvements, while also focusing on strategic purchasing
        i. More initiatives coming so difficult to focus on core goals
7. Suppliers need to adhere to standards
    a. Difficult to monitor if a company adheres to ESG standards as long as its legally operating
    b. ESG standards would also be different as an example between a small hardware down the street vs big company
    c. ESG compliant companies are hard to monitor
8. When new categories managers are hired, purchasing could make recommendations that Brown wants to support similar to how Amazon recommends products for customers
9. Focus should be on people using purchasing for smaller purchases like test tubes, scientific supplies rather than bigger purchases like microscopes because scientists typically require an exact model
10. ACCRIP needs to figure out which aspects it can actually broaden responsibilities, while implementation would have to go through purchasing
    a. Purchasing, aside from asking companies if they are ESG, have no way of evaluating and grading companies
    b. Brown already has preferred suppliers, but people just buy things that they think are best.
11. Purchasing doesn't make the ultimate decision on what to buy, it's up to the individual submitting the request
12. In the long run, Purchasing needs to build out systems that can assist with Brown community on helping out which purchases to make
    a. End of the day, Brown wants to consider the end users time and ensure there isn't a lot of red tape
        i. ACCRIP and Purchasing should provide guidance and options on what to buy