At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, in Conference Room #520, Mudd Building, the following members participated:

Jack McGourty, Faculty (Chair)  Arnie Friedland, Alumnus
Kesha Cash, Alumna             Shearwood McClelland, Alumnus
Marco Castaldi, Faculty        Peter Rosenblum, Faculty
Carlos Cuevas, Student         Matt Roskot, Alumnus
Klaartje De Schepper, Student  Anne Sullivan, Administrator
Alison Ferris, Student

The following members sent an explanation of their absence:

Marc Levy, Faculty

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The Chair led a round of introductions for new and returning members.

The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting on May 11, 2010.

The Chair gave an overview of the Committee structure, activities, and member responsibilities. He urged members to visit the ACSRI website and read the 2008-2009 Annual Report for detail on the Committee’s work last year.

The Chair addressed the overall structure of the year, noting that during the fall the Committee takes time to gather information and brief itself on the issues that are likely to be hot topics during proxy season, as well as to deal with any additional issues that arise, and during the spring the Committee focuses on voting shareholder proxies.

The Chair mentioned the Annual Agenda, which is presented to the University Senate each winter, and provides an overview of the activities the Committee hopes to accomplish during the academic year. The Agenda will be drafted and approved during the fall.
The Chair spoke briefly about the Sudan Divestment Monitoring Process and the formal Tobacco Screening Policy, both ongoing activities of the Committee. He noted that a Sudan Monitoring Subcommittee would need to be assigned at today’s meeting.

The Chair explained the purpose and recent outcome of the Annual Town Hall meeting, and proposed hosting alternative events open to the Columbia Community throughout the year. Alternative events include open Committee meetings, workshops, and panel discussions, with the intent of educating the students, as well as hearing from them. The Committee agreed to open its next meeting on October 12th to the students in order to educate them on methods of engagement and introduce them to the Committee members.

The Chair explained that the draft 2009-2010 Annual Report will have to be approved during the fall. Members should expect a draft of the report in the coming weeks for review.

The Chair briefly discussed the calendar for this year. Guest speakers are scheduled to present on areas such as engagement methods, cluster munitions, and human rights. As discussed earlier, the Committee plans to host alternative events to the Annual Town Hall meeting which are open to the Columbia Community throughout the year. The Committee approved the draft 2010-2011 Calendar.

The Chair described the role of the Communication / Outreach Subcommittee which will work to increase awareness of the Committee and attendance at its events.

Klaartje De Schepper, Alison Ferris, and Arnie Friedland agreed to serve on the Communication / Outreach Subcommittee this year.

The Chair described the responsibilities of the Sudan Divestment Subcommittee, to review research reports and recommend companies for the Sudan divestment and watch lists to the whole Committee.

Shearwood McClelland, Marco Castaldi, and Matt Roskot agreed to serve on the Sudan Divestment Subcommittee this year.
The Chair discussed the Proposal for Non-Investment in Cluster Munitions, which was introduced at the Town Hall meeting in 2007. He mentioned that a Subcommittee would need to be assigned to work with the student authors of the proposal and reach an appropriate response on behalf of the Committee. The Committee has not able to provide a formal response to the proposal and would like to do so this year.

Peter Rosenblum, Klaartje De Schepper, and Carlos Cuevas agreed to serve on the Cluster Munitions Subcommittee this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kelley
Manager, SRI