February 17th Meeting

A special meeting was held with the Subcommittee on Shareholder Responsibility of the Committee on Finance and the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing on February 17, 2015 in the Ivy Lounge of the Faculty House. The following ACSRI members participated:

Marshall Bozeman  
Katherine Chung (non-voting)  
Stephen Christensen  
Ellen Garber  
Alessandra Giannini  
Jeffrey Gordon, Chair

Brennon Mendez  
Sameer Mishra  
Gail O’Neill  
Maureen Ryan  
Anne Sullivan (non-voting)

The following members of the administration were also in attendance:

Gail Hoffman  
Colin Redhead

The Subcommittee on Shareholder Responsibility of the Committee on Finance attendees:

Trustee Ann Kaplan  
Trustee Paul Maddon

Absent with regrets:

Trustee Jonathan Lavine  
Eric LeSueur  
Anika Rahman  
Ailsa Röell

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Introductions were made by committee members and trustees. Trustee Kaplan expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the volunteer committee members for their participation and work on this committee.

Sudan

Sameer Mishra, member of the Sudan subcommittee, gave an update on the Sudan efforts for 2015 to the trustees. He mentioned that EIRIS Conflict Risk Network: Empowering Responsible Investing (EIRIS) was utilized as a second research service provider, and relayed that a re-evaluation of the standing Sudan divestment policy would occur next year, perhaps, by enlisting university experts to gain a better understanding of the current political activity in Sudan in an effort to possibly amend the criteria list. Trustee Kaplan stated her appreciation for the committee’s effort to reassess the criteria list and thanked the committee for this work.

Private Prisons

Gail O’Neill, chair of the Private Prisons subcommittee, presented the history of the student divestment proposal, the Committee's engagement with the student group, company reps. of our holdings and Martin Horn who is a former NYC Corrections and Probations Commissioner over the course of the past academic year, and then opened the matter for discussion by committee members and trustees in attendance.
Fossil Fuels
Alessandra Giannini, chair of the Fossil Fuels subcommittee, presented a discussion of the history of the fossil fuels student divestment proposal, the Committee's engagement with the student group over the course of the past academic year, current subcommittee efforts to establish a charter which would help frame criteria for action and then opened the matter for expressions of views by committee members and trustees in attendance. Trustee Maddon shared his experience about implementing environmental and sustainability programs at his firm and expressed his hope that the university would similarly increase their endeavors in this regard.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Y. Chung
Associate Director
ACSRI