

DECEMBER 1, 2009 MINUTES

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, in the Faculty House, Garden Room 1, the following members participated:

Jack McGourty, Faculty (Chair)	Tom D'Aunno, Faculty
Mary Ellen Bianco, Alumna	Klaartje De Schepper, Student
Kesha Cash, Student	Steven Mandis, Student
Marco Castaldi, Faculty	Shearwood McClelland, Alumnus
Anna Couturier, Student	Shahid Naeem, Faculty

The following members sent an explanation of their absence:

Ganesh Betanabhatla, Alumnus	Anne Sullivan, Administrator
Walter Sweet, Alumnus	

The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m.

Call to Order

The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting on October 13, 2009.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved the 2008-2009 Annual Report. It was decided that all of the Appendix items be password-protected on the ACSRI website, accessible with a Columbia University UNI. As it stands, the Voting Record is the only Appendix item that is password-protected.

2008-2009 Annual Report

The Communication / Outreach Subcommittee discussed its intentions to create a "2009-2010 ACSRI Outreach Plan" to be reviewed by the Committee at its meeting on January 26, 2010.

Communication / Outreach Subcommittee

The Committee discussed the recent Annual Town Hall meeting. The Committee generally agreed that the venue, attendance, and overall "vibe" of the meeting were all improved over last year. It was suggested that food and beverages be provided next year. It was also suggested that the Manager maintain a database of ACSRI alumni, to be invited to the Town Hall meeting, and kept abreast of Committee work through the year.

Annual Town Hall Meeting

There were four proposals presented to the Committee at the Town Hall meeting. The topics included: non-investment in cluster munitions, community investing, positive investment, and defining community consensus. The Committee discussed the next steps to

address the students who wrote the proposal for non-investment from cluster munitions. The Chair suggested that the proposal was ready to be submitted to the TSSR for review. Due to a packed meeting agenda, the Committee decided to continue its discussion on Town Hall responses at the next meeting on December 8th.

The Sudan Divestment Subcommittee presented its preliminary recommendations for the 2009-2010 Sudan Divestment and Watch Lists. The Subcommittee will update its recommendations based on new material published on November 30th by Conflict Risk Network and the Committee will vote on the final recommendations at the next meeting on December 8th.

The Chair introduced Elsadig Elsheikh, 2009 Human Rights Advocates Program Participant at Columbia's Center for the Study of Human Rights. Elsadig spoke to the Committee about his work in the area of human rights, specifically in Sudan, where he was born. He currently works on the staff at Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University as a research associate for the international program, where he focuses on the racial / ethnic dimensions of various conflicts around the world. Elsadig recently published a book on Darfur entitled, *Darfur: Domesticating Coloniality, The Failure of the Nation-State Model in Post-colonial Sudan* (2008). He described his work with various grassroots and advocacy organizations in the areas of internally displaced persons, indigenous populations, human rights, immigration, anti-racism, and social mobilizations in Sudan, Greece, Colombia and the United States. Elsadig responded to the Committee's inquiries about the impact of divestment efforts in Sudan. He believes the effort should be reexamined to focus on the people of Sudan, who will be most positively impacted by investments in infrastructure, internet, cell phones, local business, and deforestation.

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

Sudan Divestment Monitoring

Presentation by Guest Speaker

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

**Ruth Kelley**  
Manager, SRI