

MARCH 20, 2007 MINUTES

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, held on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, in the Trustees Room, 212 Low Library, the following members participated:

Merritt Fox, Faculty (Chair)	Cóilín Parsons, Student
Robert Boothe, Alumnus	Allan Reiss, Alumnus
Frances Freedman, Alumna	Sidney Small, Student
Charles Hailey, Faculty	Caroline Yao, Student
Peggy Kauh, Alumna	Stephanie Yee, Student

The following members provided an explanation of their absence:

Burton Edelstein, Faculty
Geoffrey Heal, Faculty
Albert Horvath, Administrator

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and introduced Klaus Lackner, the Maurice Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics; Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences; and Director, Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy. Call to Order and Introduction of Guest Speaker

Klaus Lackner, the Maurice Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics; Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences; and Director, Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, addressed the Committee on the subject of climate change and carbon emissions. Professor Lackner laid out various scenarios of possible growth rates in carbon emissions; he observed that it is very difficult to predict those rates because there may be reductions in per-capita energy use along with population growth. Currently, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is 280 parts per million; if emissions continue along historic growth rates, there will be over 1000 ppm of CO₂ in the atmosphere by the year 2100, yielding potentially great climate effects. One of the greatest challenges will be to hold the current concentration of CO₂ constant (or reduce it) over the next few centuries; in order to do this, and because the concentration rate grows exponentially, CO₂ emissions must be brought to 0% of the 2010 rate. In order for this to be accomplished, carbon efficiency in the world economy must improve by 3% per year for the foreseeable future. Professor Lackner further believes that this can be done for a premium of roughly \$30 per ton of CO₂ emitted. Presentation by Guest Speaker

Immediate options for reductions can be found in increased efficiency (which is already driven by price), reduction in consumption (also already driven by price), and switching between fuels with high CO₂ emissions to those with lower emissions (e.g., switching from oil/coal to methane). However, carbon capture and storage will be essential to reducing emissions to zero. Renewable energy sources (such as wind, hydroelectricity, etc.) are also important options to utilize. However, with the exception of solar energy, renewable sources are not sufficient to meet

global energy needs. He explained that along with carbon capture, the three means by which to meet global energy needs with zero carbon emissions is through solar energy, nuclear energy, and zero-emission fossil energy.

With respect to the role of individual companies, Professor Lackner asserted that it is important for companies to examine their own carbon footprint and have a plan to meet any emissions regulations or reduction targets. Rather than resist regulations, these companies should ask for them as they will allow companies to work out concrete business plans to address these issues. Finally, Professor Lackner asserted that it is not important for companies to report on climate change science, as the science has been extensively studied and reported on by experts in the field.

The Committee approved the minutes of its January 23, 2007 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Staff for the Committee informed members that the Committee's recommendations to remove ABB and Siemens from the divestment list and to add ten companies (Bollere, Electricity Generating Company (EGCO) PLC, Ericsson, ICOSA, Indian Oil Corporation, Mobile Telecommunications Co., Muhibbah Engineering (M) Berhad, Petrofac, Reliance Industries, and Rolls-Royce Group PLC) to the list had been approved by the full Board of Trustees at its most recent meeting. The Office of Public Affairs was in the process of finalizing an article to run in the News section of its website.

Discussion on Sudan Divestment Monitoring and Update on Trustee Action

In executive session, the Committee reviewed the shareholder proposals on the agenda:

Review of Shareholder Proposals

Company

Shareholder Proposal

Lennar Corp.

Issue sustainability report

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Issue sustainability report

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Review/report on charitable giving/policy

The Committee agreed to meet next on March 27, 2007 at 6:00 pm in the Trustees Room (212 Low Library); members noted that there would be no proxies up for review, but that three members of Columbia's faculty would present to the Committee on Chevron.

2006-2007 Calendar

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Hogan
Coordinator, SRI