

ACIR Meeting Minutes for 10 September 2014

Current as of: 10.29.14

Attendees, abbreviation for minutes, position (*voting member, #via phone):

Bevis Longstreth (Trustee)**Malcolm Smith (Trustee)*****Charles Allison (Faculty, Temporary Chair)*****Shannon Swimm (Student Representative)*****Ian Morlan [IM] (Staff)*****Susan Sawyer (Staff)****Ian Howland [IH] (Research Assistant)****Brandt Weathers (Research Assistant)****Tokumbo Shobowale (Chief Operating Officer)****Larry Woods (Office of Business and Finance)**

Topic	Discussion/ Action/ Proposal	Responsibility/Time Frame
1. Last Meeting Minutes	<p>Committee looks over minutes from last meeting for any edits or errors.</p> <p>Larry suggested edit for the minutes - change liaison name for OFB to “Linda and Larry”, not just Larry.</p> <p>Bevis: we should meet up at Momofuka Milk Bar for our next meeting. Some discussion ensues as to how often and where committee should eat. Some agreement that next meeting should be “brown bag” meeting.</p> <p>Charles: I’ll send B/I link on “Disrupt”, which they’ll make sure it works then send to committee. Next scheduled viewing on the 19th.</p> <p>Minutes Approved, old minutes to be posted online by B/I.</p>	<p>IH/BW: to post previous minutes online; circulate Bevis’ talk to committee on SF; remind committee that next meeting will be “brown bag”; share ‘Disrupt’ event info.</p>
2) Quick Updates	<p><u>A. Re-introductions (new RA, new Student Rep)</u> Ian H. and Shannon are reintroduced.</p>	<p>B/I: to send out survey of meeting dates to ensure maximum</p>

	<p><u>B. Re-announce Meeting Schedule</u> Charles unavailable for the 8th, Malcolm agrees.</p> <p>Charles: Send out survey to make sure all dates are okay, subject to unforeseen changes, etc.</p> <p><u>C. Annual Reports</u> Charles: annual report needs to be distributed (to the president, senior faculty members, etc.). Compose a proper letter addressed to certain individuals/organizations for distribution Deans, board of governors, student organizations, etc. Letters should include a direct ask for participation/organization/people's climate march, other events, etc. Have Bevis and Malcolm sign the letter to send it to the board.</p> <p>Malcolm: Formalize to whom the report should be distributed. Consider the board. Include annual report at board meeting.</p> <p>Tokumbo: appropriate ambassadors to sign and send out reports to respective organizations/committees</p> <p>Susan: Suggests distributing reports to coincide with board meetings so that the report is on the docket for meetings. Should we distribute at the December meeting instead?</p> <p>Charles types out letter for BoT members to be included with annual report, reads to committee</p> <p><u>D. Open Positions (Student, Faculty, Chair):</u> <u>Establish new committee Chair</u> Some discussion regarding steps to fill student, faculty, and chair positions.</p> <p>Shannon offers to bring up open student rep</p>	<p>attendance; email UFS about open faculty spot; write up letter from ACIR to DVZ about Charles' nomination for ACIR chair; write up language to edit charter to include specified process for nominating and electing ACIR chair.</p> <p>Committee: to respond to survey of meeting schedule.</p>
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	<p>at next USS meeting</p> <p>Brandt and Ian offer to email UFS to see if ACIR can make call for applicants at upcoming meeting</p> <p>Brandt states that there is little procedure for how to elect a new chair and therefore we are open to suggestions as to how to go about doing it. Suggests we allow Charles to speak about his candidacy and to vote on his temporary status until President Van Zandt gives final approval.</p> <p>Charles provides brief stump speech for his candidacy.</p> <p>Brandt asks if there are any other candidates. None raise their hand. Quick vote taken on Charles as interim chair, Charles elected, B/I to write up letter for DVZ to approve Charles' nomination from the ACIR.</p> <p>Ian proposes that we amend the charter to state how the process should be done. Also amends it to state that terms should be established for two years.</p> <p>Tokumbo suggests an amendment for a two-term limit to permit 'new blood' to circulate in committee. Some debate ensues.</p> <p>Ian: Amend charter to determine new chair appointment and voting procedure to provide recommendation to president. Suggest term for chair.</p> <p>Tokumbo: two-year, once-renewable, terms for the chair: Approved with some debate regarding term-limits.</p> <p>Shannon volunteers to take initiative to promote open student position (GFFS)</p>	
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	<p>Tokumbo: try to get student position filled by someone outside of NSSR</p> <p>Ian reraises proposal with both amendments, is seconded by Susan, passes without objection.</p> <p>B/I to write up language for charter for approval at next committee meeting.</p>	
3) Climate Change	<p><u>A. CCWG Investment Report</u></p> <p>Tokumbo: Provides some background on CCWG report and university-wide climate change plan. CCWG to champion social focuses within TNS regarding climate initiative, e.g. Urban issues/sustainability. "Channeling into discrete areas of focus". States importance of creating stronger faculty consensus on a range of issues and having a unified front in terms of what this means for the University.</p> <p>T: TNS move to divest as long as fiduciary goals are met. Prediction of 5 years(?). Grey area regarding expectations for timeline</p> <p>T: Timeline for work with CCWG report should be implemented near the end of calendar year or beginning of Spring semester.</p> <p>Brandt insists that it should be finished at another time, which can be marketable for the university.</p> <p>Tokumbo agrees, says this is the realm of the marketing department at the university.</p> <p>Brandt asks that committee looks at the Investment Report (which was created by the RAs over the summer). Starts an explanation of its background, purpose, findings, conclusions, etc.</p> <p>Bevis asks if this was sent out already.</p> <p>Brandt confirms that it had been sent out multiple times (upon completion, follow up, and with agenda items for this meeting). Continues to</p>	<p>I/B: send new pdf to committee to get feedback on report before follow up with CCWG; Recirculate Charles' climate march meeting information; edit Investment Report Appendix with TIAA-CREF info</p> <p>Committee: Circulate Charles' letter to board with Annual Report; committee to read and provide feedback on Investment Report</p>

	<p>explain the methodology of the paper (defining how the university can go about performing long-term divestment in all fossil fuels with short term divestment of particularly odious forms--coal/tar sands)</p> <p>Bevis: notes that FTSE could be a good source for defining fossil fuels when determining a score for how intensely invested in fossil fuels our endowment is. Notes that he has some concern regarding one of the appendices, which states that TIAA CREFs fund is divested.</p> <p>Brandt clarifies that it is the one fund included in the document that is not technically 'FFF' (Fossil Fuel Free)</p> <p>Charles: Remove TIAA from sheet due to FFF status because location at the top of document is misleading and provides the wrong image</p> <p>Tokumbo: TNS could focus on non-production side. Design school and research school focusing on efficiency of buildings/fashion/action to reduce carbon footprint.</p> <p>IM proposes to consider indirect fossil fuel companies (not necessarily ones that indirectly contribute to the fossil fuel production industry, but are buyers of the energy), e.g. (Matel) or other plastics companies</p> <p>Malcolm explains that there is an expected value of roughly 1% regarding the impact on fiduciary responsibility in terms of divestment, which equates to about one student's total tuition.</p> <p>Bevis responds by saying the 1% is totally unknowable, and "if it's unknowable, aren't we free to do something intelligent?"</p> <p>IM proposes the the question regarding divestment and various sustainability initiatives: Does this increase or decrease the educational opportunity for TNS, and is that the mission of TNS? Of the Board of Trustees?</p>	
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	<p><u>B. People's Climate March</u> Brandt asks if there is any other info regarding the People's Climate March.</p> <p>Charles goes back over the details of the meeting place, march route, etc. Asks that I/B include these details in an email follow up to the committee.</p> <p><u>C. Final Details/Meeting with OBF</u> Skipped.</p>	
4) Plans for the Year	<p><u>A. Priorities: Results from Block Party</u> Tokumbo brings up the possibility that many students might not understand divestment as a concept, and might not be concerned due to the technical aspects of the topic. Charles agreed with the sentiment.</p> <p>Ian H disagrees and refers to the block party results, which showed that, of the issues represented, fossil fuels was the second most prevalent issue (behind student loan legislation), and, based off the discussions he had with students at the block party, students seemed to be passionate and conversant about them.</p> <p>Some interest arises regarding 'student loan legislation' as an endowment investment issues. Charles asks I/B to email REC to learn more about the state of such a campaign on other campuses.</p> <p>The different issues considered at the block party were discussed only briefly, and there was no discussion regarding the individual merits of the particular issues.</p> <p><u>B. Events for the Year: to organize, to attend</u> Brandt suggests that this is meant to be a</p>	<p>B/I: Circulate voting decision for approval from president; Email Joel regarding open student positions; Follow up with Shannon regarding USS/student rep; I/B to send email requests to committee members for short bios and updated photos; get ahold of REC for clarity on student loan legislation movement.</p> <p>Committee: to respond to I/B email regarding event ideas and website bio info</p>

	<p>moment for brainstorming. That typically our committee organizes two events a year (1 public-oriented, 1 student-oriented), but we need to get a sense of what we want to do this year.</p> <p>Shannon recommends events geared towards unification of different TNS schools by means of “education” based events regarding finance/sustainability.</p> <p>Little other feedback; Brandt states that he will include call for follow up from committee on these items.</p> <p><u>C. Website Suggestions</u> I/B to send email requests to committee members for short bios and updated photos.</p>	
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