Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility
Background Note

The Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility (ACIR) was created in 2009 by the Board of Trustees to advise the Investment Committee on integrating consideration of social, environmental, and corporate governance (collectively, "SEG") issues into the management and investment of the University’s endowment. The adoption of the new ‘Policy and Procedures on Investment Responsibility’ reflects the recognition that the investment of the university's endowment should be in alignment with the New School's educational mission—which is guided by respect for intellectual freedom, human dignity, and the rights and welfare of others. The policy authorizes the President to appoint the members of the ACIR, in a manner that ensures representation of faculty, students, staff, and trustees.

Universities are part of larger society; as such, they have a responsibility to conduct their affairs in an ethical manner. At the core of the new policy is the notion that, as investors, we are ultimately responsible for the practices of the companies in which we are invested. If violating human rights or international environmental norms is making profits, then we are obligated to consider those issues, since as investors we are the ultimate beneficiaries of corporate business practices.

The mission of the ACIR is to develop strategies for incorporating consideration of SEG issues into the management of the New School’s investments. Issues under consideration include, but are not limited to: human rights, labor standards, environmental sustainability, equity, diversity, discrimination, and corporate governance and disclosure. A diverse and flexible array of strategies is currently being examined, as the ACIR develops initial recommendations for the Investment Committee.

Contact: Terra Lawson-Remer, ACIR Chair; lawsonrt@newschool.edu