

SRIC Committee Meeting Notes:

Meeting was held 8/7/13 with Julie, Tim, Simon, David and Brad in Boston; Vonda and Kimberly participated by phone.

Summary of discussion is below; follow-up items are in **bold**.

Website update: Will be led by David and Tim. Goal is to have fully revised site---either as a section of the current UUA site or possibly, as a standalone website for the UUCEF—by early 2014, when the UUCEF LLC will also launch. We also hope to do a “band-aid” update of the current site before then.

Next steps:

- **All committee members should review PowerPoint sent by David, as well as websites of Friends Fiduciary and Mercy Investments (which may give us ideas for improvement), and send him comments by Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Thereafter, David and Tim will meet with Margie and/or Casey, web designers at UUA, and will return to the SRIC committee with a plan for next steps. Simon has indicated ongoing willingness to respond to drafts of website navigation and content, and Kimberly is willing to write or revise text as necessary.

1. Climate-related advocacy and communication: Tim will be doing 10 resolutions on climate this year, also continuing work on political spending, but dialing back advocacy on other issues. As a committee, we also want to take a number of steps to better communicate our work on climate to fossil fuel divestment advocates and other UUs concerned with environmental issues, who are currently insufficiently aware of our efforts. Actions may include increased use of social media and media outlets (by Simon and Tim). There is a communications team at the UUA who will help implement this if we design it. We also think it would be good to have a call or calls with the leaders of groups who are promoting fossil fuel divestment, and also have an in-person meeting with them in Boston (we would invite them and get their travel paid for). Groups could include UU Divest, Earth Justice, and Ministry for Earth; Terry Wiggins, sponsor of divestment resolution, should be first contact. Tim, Simon, Kimberly, possibly others on SRIC should participate in a call with her, and get her advice on whom else to contact. Simon will also intensify his use of social media to reach out to divestment advocates.

Next steps:

- **Tim will set up a meeting with UUA communications staff members Rachel Walden and Ted Reznikoff to meet with him and Simon in August about a communications plan on our investment response to climate change.**
- **Tim will call Terry Wiggins and find some times she might be available for a call with the committee, and circulate to the rest of us.**
- **Simon will join the UUDivest list serve and “friend” some divestment advocates on Facebook.**

2. Webinar on how congregations can manage their investments: David and Julie will lead a September webinar on how to help congregations set up proper investment governance, including SRI issues, with or without joining the UUCEF.

Next steps:

- **David and Julie will finish webinar PowerPoint and suggest possible dates to Susan and Carol McMullen.**
  - **They will notify committee when a date is finalized.**
3. Proxy voting updates: We need to update our custom guidelines, which were last touched four of five years ago. We also need to consider whether to publish our actual proxy votes, which would provide valuable transparency but which costs about \$7000 from ISS.

Next steps:

- **Tim will send Kimberly a) ISS's current SRI guidelines; b) our custom proxy voting policy that ISS is currently using for us. Kimberly will then suggest amendments to our custom guidelines and circulate to the committee for review.**
  - **Tim will also ask ISS if they would be able to report our intended votes before annual meetings, or only after.**
4. Meetings and other travel: We agreed that we would like to plan our budget and be able to explain its priorities clearly, particularly when arguing for a renewal of funding at current levels (or even for an increase in funds) when the fiscal 2015 budget process begins in January of next year.

In terms of uses of funds, we agreed we would like the SRIC to meet at least quarterly in conjunction with IC meetings, at least telephonically, but did not conclude how often we want the SRIC to meet in person. We did agree that it is desirable for our committee members to attend the IC meetings as often as possible in person. We also discussed that it is sometimes important to send committee members to conferences (e.g., ICCR, CERES, GA) to support our advocacy, and that we would also like to send members to conferences for educational purposes. However, we may not want to spend committee funds on certain conferences if some members are already able to attend them in the course of their paid employment. Further, we noted that all committee members attending conferences should inform others who did not attend of key points from the conferences, so that the educational benefits of attendance can be shared.

Next steps:

**By Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, all committee members should send Kimberly and David an email explaining:**

**--how many IC meetings you would like to attend in person in 2013-2014, and what you estimate this would cost;**

**--how many (and which) conferences you would ideally like to attend at the expense of our committee, and approximately what you think that would cost;**

**--how often you think we should commit to all meeting in person as the SRIC (separate from the IC)**

**Kimberly and David will then begin to compile a tentative budget for the committee for 2013-2014.**

6. SRI Intern: We have tabled for now the idea of hiring an SRI intern to assist in education, advocacy and outreach, since we believe that low-level support would be of minimal help, but more skilled consulting assistance is beyond our committee's budget.

7. Fossil Fuel Screening: Sustainalytics is now implementing the improved fossil fuel screening methodology we discussed with them earlier this summer.

Next steps:

- **When he receives the new screening list on the Russell 3000 from Sustainalytics, Tim will circulate it along with a reminder of what the new screening criteria are. The committee will be asked to provide any comments within a week, so that Tim can then circulate to our managers.**