**UUA Socially Responsible Investment Committee – Minutes** 

24 Farnsworth Street Boston, MA 02210 Room 315 November 19, 2015

Members present: David Stewart, Chair, Tim Brennan, Vonda Brunsting, Kathy Mulvey, and Marva Williams

Members absent: Kristin Faust, Larry Ladd,

Staff present: Susan Helbert

- Minutes from meeting on September 19, 2015 Stewart Motion 1: To adopt minutes from September 19th meeting without amendment. Moved, Ladd seconded, Brennan, all approved.
- 2. Investment Committee Meeting Stewart, Brennan
  - Discussed the consideration of the Investment Committee to reduce the spending policy for the UUA's endowment.
- 3. Follow up on review of screening and proxy voting Brennan
  - The screening review has been moved to a future meeting due to the volume of work on the UUCEF, LLC.
  - Attended the ISS client briefing and they suggest that now is a good time to work on custom voting directions. They provided a document to assist us.

Action item 1: Brennan will distribute the latest Sustainalytics report to the committee.

*Action item 2*: Helbert to schedule a conference call for Brennan, Mulvey and, Stewart to discuss the ISS recommendations and document.

- 4. Conference and meetings Brennan
  - ICCR news includes the retirement of Laura Berry and appointment of Josh Zinner as new Executive Director.
  - Will be attending the shareholder dialogue with Exxon, the SRI conference is Colorado, the Investor Summit on Climate at the UN and meeting of Investor Network on Climate Risk.
  - Attended Ceres Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. Representatives from treasury and EPA were present as well as a Republican polling group that had conducted some recent polling on climate change. Second day was filled with meetings focused on very specific policy questions. The Paris

goal is higher than the 2 degree change; it's to have agreements to 5 year reviews and renewals. Private sector commitments are over and above.

- 5. Update on Shareholder Advocacy Brennan
  - Expect to have another busy season; have filed the following:
    - Climate change:
      - Marathon Oil, Devon Energy and Occidental
    - Lobbying:
      - Bank of America, Pfizer and Spectra Energy
    - Executive Compensation:
      - ConocoPhillips
  - Discussed the new UCS campaign, looking at fossil fuel producers, which is rooted in research showing that two-thirds of all emissions in the industrial age can be traced to 90 investor and state owned companies.

They're building a narrative around the fossil fuel industries record of deceiving the public about the evidence of climate change and their role in it.

• Discussed additional advocacy that's going on at other places such as a proposal involving stock buybacks as part of an executive compensation plan.

Action item 3: Brunsting will send around information on their work and/or research on diversity or racial justice.

*Action item 4:* Mulvey will circulate the publications; The Climate Deception Dossiers: Internal Fossil Fuel Industry Memos Reveal Decades of Corporate Disinformation and The climate responsibilities of industrial carbon producers to the committee.

- 6. Update on climate tool kit Brunsting
  - Rob Lake is willing to do a webinar on the toolkit.
  - Doing the webinar in conjunction with ICCR at the summit would be ideal.
- 7. Proxy access update Brunsting
  - New York City Funds are refilling all of the resolutions filed last year at companies that didn't implement the proposal and the ones who promised to implement but didn't.
  - Other investors are also filing proxy access resolutions this year.
- 8. Action item follow-up Brunsting
  - Reached out to Cathie Mahon at the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions and they're very interested in partnering with us to look at our community investment pool. They have a fund at the

association that accepts investments for microloans to immigrants or they can put us in contact through their network of credit unions accepting investments for microloans.

*Action item 5:* Brunsting will reach out to Kristin and Marva to join her on a call with Cathie Mahon to discuss a potential working relationship and follow-up with Martin to obtain documents for the investment in VOICES.

- 9. Discussion on expanding community investment options Brennan
  - Several other options exist for community investing such as housing cooperatives, impact investments, restoration funds oriented toward job creation in developing countries and, distressed communities.
  - Further discussions to follow when full committee is present.

Action item 6: Brennan will reach out to Ascension as well as ICCR and other denominations to determine what other community investment options they invest in and how it's working.

Action item 7: Helbert to distribute the 2016 meeting schedule.