

UUA Investment and Socially Responsible Investment Committee – Minutes
Via Zoom
November 4, 2021

Joint Investment Committee and Socially Responsible Investment Committee:

Investment Committee members present: Kathy Mulvey, Acting Chair, Vonda Brunsting, Brian Lasher, Asha Mehta, John Minahan, Andrew McGeorge, Ken Redd, Lucia Santini-Field

SRIC members present: Kathy Mulvey, Chair, Vanessa Lowe, Andrew McGeorge, Julie Skye, Lucia Santini-Field

Member absent: Pat Tomaino

1. Temperature check: mission alignment for all CEF investments- All

- Doing an excellent job without all investments being mission aligned.
- Should strive for some level of mission alignment but 100% seems too narrow.
- Mission alignment needs to be defined before additional discussions.
- The Racial Justice training and investing should help us better understand how to be mission aligned in today's environment.

Action item 1: All members to make notes on what would greater mission alignment look like in process or in the portfolio.

2. Presentations by Racial Justice Investing training finalists

- Each finalist presented scope and objectives on the training.
 - The REAL – Erika Seth Davies
 - Revalue Investing – Angela Barbash, Michelle Hoexum, Diane Manuel, Yodit Mesfin Johnson
 - The Hackett Group – Toni Hackett, Dorien Nunez

3. Discussion of presentations and final selection – All

- Members provided their thoughts on each firm and provided their ranking in order of preference.
- All agreed that each of the firms would be capable of providing the training sought.
- After full and in-depth discussion, a slight edge to The Real emerged.
- While The Real was selected, want to maintain contact with Revalue for future considerations.
- Next need to determine top candidates for the investment consulting arm of the RFP. Would be advantageous to have the investment consultant attend the second day of RJI training.

Motion 1: To hire The REAL as the Racial Justice Investment Trainer. Moved: Redd, seconded Lasher, all approved.

Action item 2: McGeorge to contact The Real to discuss contract and next steps.

Action item 3: McGeorge and Santini-Field to send a note of thanks to the groups who were not selected advising while they were not selected as the trainer, we may be back in touch regarding the investment consulting portion of the RFP.

Action item 4: McGeorge to provide to the committee, background information on relationship with U.S Bank.

4. Sub-Committee updates, follow up:

- Screening Sub-committee:
 - August Sustainalytics report did not show any new controversies.
 - One remaining decision to be made is on Volvo. They rate high on human rights violations and weak on company management.
 - Discussed need for a documented process for divesting from companies. Suggestions for process were:
 - a) Is it a company we can realistically have an effect by engaging.
 - b) Are there partners we can co-file with, engagement is more effective with multiple filers.
 - c) Contact Sustainalytics and/or ISS for full report on the company.

Motion item 2: To divest our holdings in Volvo. Moved: Redd, seconded Santini-Field, all approved.

Action item 5: Santini-Field and McGeorge to draft process and procedure for divestment considerations.

Action item 6: McGeorge to notify Sustainalytics, and managers of separately managed account, to add Volvo and Enbridge to our custom exclusion list.

- Community Investing Sub-committee:
 - Anticipate speaking with the African American Alliance of CDFI CEO's. There are opportunities to work with them directly to focus on black CDFI's.
 - Waiting on revised loan documents from Inclusiv.

Action item 7: McGeorge to follow up with Inclusiv on revised loan documents.

Action item 8: Santini-Field to follow up on draft to congregations regarding possible changes to the Community Investing Match Program.

- Investment Policy Sub-committee:
 - The Noyes Foundation, of which Brunsting is a Board member, has updated their policy to include similar priorities as the UUA has. Can use their policy to help model our own.
 - The catholic faith is merging their SRI policy with their Investment Policy, can also view their policy.

5. Communications support for blogs, congregational communication, etc.

- Have had conversations with two potential communications consultants. Joe Watt, is very familiar with the organization and mission. Bob McNatt, had a long career in financial journalism.
- Goal is to have a three-part series of articles for the UUCEF website.

- Discussed each consultant's vision for the articles and the desire to have them be a gateway for additional articles on other work and goals of the committee.
- All agreed the focus of the articles is more important than who writes them.

Action item 9: McGeorge will talk with both communication consultants to see who could deliver the articles earliest.

Action item 10: McGeorge to follow up with the young adults to confirm a date for the meeting.

Action item 11: McGeorge to draft first round of presentation for the young adult meeting and circulate to the committees for comments/additions.

Action item 12: Lasher to invite GCM to the Quarterly Investor Meeting on November 16th to discuss the Advance Fund.

Action item 13: Lowe and Minahan to collaborate on what should be included in the NEPC meeting materials and the Quarterly Investor Meeting materials and circulate to the committees for review and input.

6. Recruitment brainstorming, sources, contacts, etc.

- Discussion deferred to a future meeting.

Action item 14: McGeorge to find posting to USSIF listserv seeking committee candidates and circulate to all.

7. Revisit Committee and Leadership structure

Action item 15: Brunsting to circulate to the committees' reading materials and thoughts on committee and leadership structure.

Next Meeting
February 25, 2022