

York University Advisory Committee on Responsible Investing

**Thursday, September 15, 2016
Room 901, Kaneff Tower**

Present:

Irene Henriques, Chair
James Pratt, Research Officer, School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Manisha Joshi-Vijayan, PSC Student SubCommittee
Mithilen Mathipalan, York Federation of Students
Trudy Pound-Curtis, Assistant Vice-President and CFO
Laurie Lawson, University Treasurer
Anna Zalik, Faculty of Environmental Studies (via teleconference)

Absent:

Mina Rajabi Paak, York University Graduate Students' Association

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee.

2. Adoption of Minutes of June 13, 2016 and August 16, 2016

The Committee discussed changes to the August 16th minutes. The minutes will be amended to reflect these amendments. The minutes with track changes will be distributed to YUACRI for approval at the next meeting.

It was suggested that the minutes of the two meetings be shared with Walter Whiteley for his review and comments.

A motion was put forward by Irene Henriques and seconded by Jamie Pratt to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016 and August 16, 2016 pending amendments and approval by Walter Whiteley. MOTION APPROVED

3. Report from the Technical Sub-Committee

The Technical Sub-Committee will be comprised of Irene Henriques, Manisha Joshi-Vijayan, Anna Zalik and Jamie Pratt. It was decided that the Committee will not meet on September 29th to review the Fossil Free York's submission; rather they will communicate their responses via e-mail. Members of the Technical Sub-Committee will be asked to complete and sign the YUACRI Technical Review Sub-committee checklist and return it by September 29th. If the proposal does not pass the technical review by all members the Committee will meet in person.

4. 2015-16 Annual Report to Vice-President, Finance and Administration

Irene confirmed that the 2015-16 Annual Report to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration was submitted to Vice-President Gary Brewer for review. The Annual Report was circulated at the June 13th meeting to committee members for comment.

5. September 23rd Panel

The upcoming panelist discussion is confirmed for September 23, 2015 in the Senate Chamber. The chair of the panel will be Manisha Joshi-Vijayan. The Committee reviewed the questions to the panelists.

Bryan Karney will be asked how he reacted to the President's response to the UofT 350.org proposal, and where does it go from here?

The Chair noted that Lila Asher is no longer part of the UofT 350.org coalition but will speak to her experience with that organization.

6. Future Panels

The next panel discussion will be scheduled the week of January 16, 2017. The Committee agreed on a topic for the event "Power Relations and the Success or Failure of Investment/Divestment. The Committee discussed potential presenters to include:

- David Levy, University of Massachusetts
- Janice Newson, Dept. of Sociology, York University
- Claire Polster, University of Regina
- Abigail Bakan, OISE
- Paul Hamel, University of Toronto
- Judy Kott, RBC Global Management

There will be three presenters selected with a preference to candidates who are in the Toronto area. The Chair asked that any other suggestions should be forwarded to her. The Chair will initially contact Abigail Bakan, Paul Hamel and Janice Newson to check on their availability.

7. Membership vacancy

It was reported that eight submissions have been received for the vacancy to replace Walter Whiteley on YUACRI. The submissions will be forwarded to the President and the Chair of the President's Sustainability Council for review and selection. The Committee inquired whether they could be apprised of the names of the interested faculty members. Trudy will communicate with the Vice-President Finance to ask for authorization to share this information with YUACRI.

8. YU Divest Coalition – Update

The Draft letter to YU Divest Coalition was reviewed and changes were discussed. The letter will be amended and sent out to members for final approval by September 16th. The final copy will be sent to the YU Divest Coalition Spokesperson.

9. Review of YUACRI timelines process

The Chair noted that there is currently insufficient time allowed to effectively review, discuss and respond back to the proposals submitted. It was agreed that proposals submitted will be acknowledged within 5 business days of receipt instead of two days. Also, the phrase "If the proposal is deemed to be incomplete, it will be returned to the submitter(s) within two weeks with a request for further information" will be replaced by "If the proposal is deemed to be incomplete, it is our objective to return it to the submitter within 2-4 weeks with a request for

further information”. These timelines will be updated and a draft will be brought back to the Committee for review at the next meeting.

10. Future Meeting Dates:

The following dates have been scheduled for future YUACRI meetings.

- January 12, 2017 – 10:00-Noon
- March 3, 2017 – 10:00-Noon
- June 29, 2017 – 10:00-Noon

At the request of Manisha, members will be polled for their availability to change the meeting in January from the 12th to the 13th.

11. Other Business

As there was no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items:

- Minutes of June 13, 2016 and the amended August 16, 2016 will be forwarded to Walter Whiteley for review.
- Members of the Technical Sub-Committee will be asked to review the York Fossil Free proposal and to complete, sign and return the YUACRI Technical Review Sub-committee checklist by September 29th.
- The Chair will contact Abigail Bakan, Paul Hamel and Janice Newson to check on their availability to present at the panel discussion in January 2017.
- YUACRI members will send other suggestions of possible presenters for the next panel discussion.
- Trudy will request authorization to share the names of faculty members who expressed interest in the faculty vacancy position on YUACRI.
- The Draft letter to YU Divest Coalition will be amended and sent out to members for final approval by September 16th. The final copy will be sent to the YU Divest Coalition Spokesperson.
- The timelines outlined in the YUACRI Process for Handling Responsible Investment Representations for the York University Endowment Fund from the York University Community document will be updated and a draft presented at the next meeting.
- Members will be polled for their availability to change the meeting in January from 12th to 13th