

Process for Responsible Investment Representations for the York University Endowment Fund from York University Community

In order to provide the York University community with an opportunity to make representations on social responsibility with respect to the University's endowment investments, we have established the following process.

Proposals from York University Stakeholders

Proposals must be initiated by members of the York University community. For the purposes of this statement, we have identified five separate constituencies - faculty, staff, students, retirees, and alumni.

The submission must be accompanied by a petition of at least 300 individual signatures (hard copy and/or electronic), with a minimum of 15 signatures from each of at least 3 constituencies that self-identify as faculty, staff, student, retiree or alumni.

Submission

1. Any qualified Responsible Investment proposal/submission regarding the York University Endowment Fund will require a documented submission identifying the social and/or environmental injury that should influence investment decisions.
2. A robust case for the proposed action including:
 - (i) A social, political, economic or environmental rationale that is clearly stated and supported by evidence ;
 - (ii) Reasonable evidence that the proposed action is an effective way to achieve the desired outcome;
 - (iii) Illustration that the request is consistent with the University's principles and beliefs (<http://about.yorku.ca/our-mission/>) and other community relationships or a further argument to align other University academic activities with the request;
 - (iv) A clearly laid out rationale as to why this policy is superior to alternative approaches aiming to address the identified social and/or environmental injury.

Electronic submissions are encouraged and accepted. The submission along with the requisite signatures and University affiliation should be sent to the attention of the York University Advisory Committee on Responsible Investing (c/o Susan Claridge) yuacri@yorku.ca

Investment Holdings

Members of the York community can obtain a currently available list of the investment holdings of the Endowment Fund at <http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/board-of-governors/investment-committee/>

Role of York University Advisory Committee on Responsible Investing (YUACRI)

Under the Terms of Reference, the scope of the YUACRI's work includes:

- Advice about investments where investment managers can actively engage;
- Identification of companies that may be involved in activities contrary to the University's principles and beliefs, where active engagement by York's investment managers would be warranted;
- Advice about circumstances in which stocks held by the University may cause social or environmental injury;
- Advice on proxy voting guidelines, including areas in which the University should invoke proxy voting;

- Identification of like-minded organizations, shareholder groups or coalitions, with which the University could potentially affiliate or become a member.

The York University Advisory Committee will review submissions and make a recommendation to the Vice President Finance and Administration on what further action, if any, should be taken. The decision to make recommendation is expected to be made within 4 months. Actions may include (but are not limited to):

1. No action with explanation
2. Shareholder engagement activities which may include some of the following actions:
 - (i) letters to management
 - (ii) supporting shareholder resolutions
 - (iii) voting of proxies or amending proxy voting guidelines
 - (iv) joining coalitions
 - (v) divestiture of existing holdings
 - (vi) applying investment screens (positive or negative)

Last updated: January 22, 2016