

Meeting 1

(12/03/24)

The ACSRI committee members participated in a wide-ranging discussion that included the role of the advisory committee, terms for future definition, scope of responsibility, and the information and further education needed to develop a policy on socially responsible investing (SRI). Ultimately the committee will propose the Western Washington University SRI policy to the Board of Trustees for approval and adoption. At that point, the role of the ACSRI will be to uphold the policy through the review and recommendation of proposals identifying specific investment securities.

Committee discussion aimed to clarify the committee's role. Topics included the Ethical Procurement Committee and how/if the ACSRI's work relates, transparency in reporting university and Foundation investments, and comprehensive and human readable summary of said investments on the ACSRI website. The committee discussed and reaffirmed as per its charter that the ACSRI policy will be limited to financial securities held as investments by the university and the Foundation. Members agree that the ACSRI charter does not provide direction or authority to opine on donor profiles or partnerships between the university and 3rd parties of any kind. The committee also noted that WWU exists within a broader landscape but is uniquely situated to address SRI through its own lens.

Assignments to ex-officio members were made to prepare presentations that respond to the questions raised at the first committee meeting. The following presentations will be given at the next meeting:

Rebecca Hansen-Zeller will provide context for our work by surveying SRI initiatives across the broader landscape of higher ed. The presentation will include examples from institutions that share key qualities such as structure, public vs. private university charter, treatment/inclusion of university investments and Foundation/ endowment investments, political environment, etc. The culture of our institution, especially with respect to WWU's unique mission, vision, values, and goals will drive our perspective on developing a policy on SRI.

Becca Kenna-Schenk will collaborate with Andrea Rodger to develop a one-page explanation of the ACSRI's role related to the work of the Ethical Procurement Committee. Becca, in collaboration with Jasmine Welaye and Liam Pratt, will also present a briefing on the history and work leading to the Spring 2024 MOU, and the subsequent formation of the ACSRI.

Mark Brovak, in collaboration with Colette Taylor and Chase Franklin, will brief members on the terms of the MOU agreement between Western and the Foundation that are pertinent to the committee's work. They will discuss the concept of fiduciary responsibility and how it impacts the decisions made by the university and the Foundation. Mark will discuss the history of the University endowment funds (\$15.0 million) managed by the Foundation.

Below are links to some of the foundational resources that were requested:

- [WWU 2018-2025 Strategic Plan](#)
 - [2024 update to Strategic Plan](#)
- [MOU between WWU and the WWU Divest Apartheid Coalition](#)
- [20 Revised Agreement Between WWU and the Foundation for WWU and Alumni \(1\).pdf](#)

The committee will meet again on January 13, 2025 to hear background presentations and discuss the principles that will frame the recommended policy.