



Stanford University

Investment Responsibility Guidelines Community Proposal Information

Introduction

Members of the University community can submit an Investment Responsibility Proposal to the Board of Trustees through the Office of Investment Responsibility and Stakeholder Relations by emailing the proposal to irstakeholders@stanford.edu. Community Proposals should be no longer than 10 pages, excluding supporting materials and appendices.

In the event that the Trustees consider community proposals for research, education, and dialogue on issues of investment responsibility or disassociation of the endowment from investment in a particular company or industry based on the standard articulated in the *Statement of Investment Responsibility (SIR)*, the SCIR may choose to appoint an ad-hoc fact-finding committee to provide research and community input when considering a proposal or making a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees' Special Committee on Investment Responsibility (SCIR), with the input from the Office of the President, will review and update investment responsibility guidelines and related procedures as needed.

Proposal Guidelines

- Action Requested**
Describe the action that is being requested. There are many types of actions which the University can take, for example: proposing educational initiatives related to responsible investment or the proposal issue area, revising or adopting a proxy voting guideline, sponsoring a shareholder resolution, initiating conversations with a company, or restricting investment from a specific company or set of companies.
- Explanation of Issue**
State the action or practice with clearly documented research. Describe how the issue effects the Stanford community and how the desired change in the company's behavior will correct the issue. If the proposal is for a disassociation of the endowment from specific companies please explain it in relation to the 'abhorrent and ethically unjustifiable' standard described in the *Statement on Investment Responsibility*.
- University Community Engagement**
Before the proposal is submitted, it is expected that the petitioners create opportunities for engagement and education for the Stanford campus community regarding the issue in the proposal. Please describe the engagement activities and the reactions from the campus community including different perspectives expressed during your engagements. Engaging the campus often means reaching out to faculty experts, please provide information on partnering with the faculty or if there is currently have a faculty advisor to the proposal.



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Process of a Proposal Review

The Office of Investment Responsibility will confirm the receipt of the proposal and that the information in the proposal is complete before sending it to the Board of Trustees’ SCIR Committee.

As stated in the *Statement on Investment Responsibility*, the SCIR will first determine if the issue causes divisiveness within the campus community or if the purpose of the proposal is solely to use the endowment to produce a political statement from the University. The SCIR may ask the representatives of the proposal to present additional information.

If the SCIR concludes that there is not sufficient evidence supporting the proposal, it will inform the petitioners and explain the reason of the decision. The SCIR may conclude that the proposal needs further evaluation, considering the particular circumstances of the proposal, the SCIR may appoint an ad-hoc fact-finding committee, who will review the matter or take any action that SCIR deems appropriate.

The fact-finding role is not an advocate for the petitioner or any other party, it is to answer questions based on the issue and make non-binding recommendations to the SCIR.

The fact-finding committee will thoroughly study the proposal, underlying issues, and the companies’ conduct. It may also research whether there are alternative means by which the university can better address the community’s concerns on the issue, including educational programs, research, university operations, campus dialogue, and as well as proxy voting and shareholder engagement. The SCIR may seek input from the broader campus community or external experts as it sees fit. The Board of Trustees would make the final decision on what action, if any, should be taken on the request.

Stanford Guiding Documents

1. Stanford Statement on Investment Responsibility
2. Stanford Management Company Ethical Investment Framework

