Macalester College  
Social Responsibility Committee  
April 4, 2013

Present: Terry Boychuk, Chris MacDonald-Dennis, Brian Lindeman, Daylanne English, Anna Faber, David Wheaton, Paul Schadewald, Vincent Siegerink and Laurie Hamre.

Terry informed the committee he had recent meetings with representatives of the fossil fuel divestment student group and members of the Student Endowment Responsibility Committee. He asked the fossil fuel group to review the SRC process for deliberating campus issues and to attend a meeting when they have the information pulled together.

SERC let Terry know Dan Apfel, executive director of the Responsible Endowments Coalition, would be on campus on April 3 to meet with students about possibilities of responsible investing through the college’s endowment. SERC sponsored Apfel and planned to join him in presenting about engaging students on the idea of social responsibility, economic activism and ways in which money can be used to promote Macalester’s values.

SERC surveyed students to gauge opinions concerning the Mac endowment. The survey was completed by 345 students. Questions and responses included:

*How would you rate your understanding of the endowment? Very good - 21%, good - 14%, poor - 37%, very poor - 26% and not at all - 2%.

How important is it to you that Macalester maximizes its return on investments? Very important - 40%, important - 44%, somewhat important - 13%, not very - 1% and not at all 2%.

*To what extent would you risk foregoing part of the profit of the endowment to ensure more socially responsible investing? Very much - 39%, somewhat - 45%, little - 9%, very little - 4% and not at all - 3%.

*As a future alum, would you be more inclined to donate to Macalester if the school adopted a socially responsible investment policy? Much more inclined - 46%, more inclined - 28%, somewhat - 13%, little more - 5% and not at all - 8%.

The committee discussed recent actions/tactics from the KWOC group. Anna and Vincent offered to meet with them to discuss respectful activism and a process that might bring positive results.

Brian, Paul and Chris agreed to remain on the committee for another year. Daylanne will be on sabbatical and Terry will cycle off in order to serve on EPAG.