WWU's Approach to Socially Responsible Investing & Ethical Procurement

Aligning university investments and purchasing decisions with institutional values.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2024 MOU: WWU & Divest Apartheid Coalition

2024 MOU established formal processes to evaluate how WWU invests and spends university funds:

- **Socially Responsible Investing**
  - Establish the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI).
  - Create a process for community members to request investment reviews.
- **Ethical Procurement & Contracting**
  - Establish an Ethical Contracts Committee (ECC).
  - Develop standards for reviewing vendor relationships and contracts.

Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI)

Purpose: Advise the Board of Trustees on aligning university investments with WWU's values and social responsibility commitments.

WWU SRI Policy

- Establishes the framework used to evaluate university investments.
- Uses Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) factors as a lens for investment review.
- Considers issues including fossil fuels, tobacco, weapons production, and human rights.
- Balances social responsibility with financial and fiduciary responsibilities.

Investment Review Process Established by ACSRI

- Students, faculty, and staff can submit requests for investment review.
- The BOT Executive Committee determines whether requests qualify for review.
- ACSRI evaluates qualifying investments and develops recommendations.
- Recommendations are submitted to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Actions to Date

- SRI policy and investment review process established.
- $15 million in university funds redirected to socially responsible investments.

https://trustees.wwu.edu/sri

Ethical Contracts Committee (ECC)

Purpose: Review university vendor relationships to ensure alignment with ethical purchasing standards.

Key responsibilities

- Review vendor contracts and disassociation requests.
- Evaluate labor, human rights, and environmental concerns.
- Assess compliance with WWU's Supplier Code of Conduct.
- Recommend continuation, further review, or termination of vendor relationships.

Actions to date

- Committee charter established.
- Supplier Code of Conduct adopted.

https://business-services.wwu.edu/ethical-contracts-committee

Questions?