

Investment Policy DTF

Notes from the meeting on July 1, 2024

Present: Steff Beck, Dave Kohler, Alex Marshall, Meredith Espinosa, Zoltan Grossman, Sandy Kaiser, Javier Womeldorff, Dan Ralph

Working Agreements

The members discussed the draft working agreements document and made suggestions for revisions. The agreed upon version of the draft will be included in full in the notes below. Additional items of interest:

- Regarding external communications, the group agreed to update the faculty on the progress of the DTF once in late summer or early fall, and then again later in the fall. The GSU would be updated in early fall and at least one once later in the quarter. The notes from the meetings should be posted on a college website (the specific page has not yet been identified) and a mechanism should be created to facilitate receiving feedback on the notes. Responding to rumors and untrue assertions about the work being done by the DTF will be the responsibility of the co-chairs, unless the false assertions are coming from external media, in which case Marketing and Communications will be brought into the process.
- Regarding internal communications, it was clarified that “expressing yourself concisely” is not always possible and that members are being asked to do their best with this requirement. For the meetings taking place remotely, the chat function should only be used for the sharing of links to critical resources and for similar purposes. It should not be used to carry on discussions. The repository for documents for the DTF will be a Teams site which has been requested but not yet created.
- Regarding decision making, the usual practice for the notes will be a simple recording of votes. For the final report, assuming the group is unable to reach consensus on the recommendations, there will be sections written for each faction that will explain the reasons for the affirmative or negative response to the proposed recommendation. The co-chairs of the DTF are voting members.

Work Plan

The DTF will form three subcommittees to do research:

- Subcommittee A (Alex, Amjad, Steff and Zoltan) will identify readings and other educational resources needed to become familiar with institutional investing and socially responsible investing.
- Subcommittee B (Dave, Meredith) will gather information from staff on current college and foundation investments and investment policies.
- Subcommittee C (Sandy, Javier and John) will examine investment policies from other institutions.

The next three meetings will be devoted to hearing reports from each of these subcommittees, beginning with B. The intent in this report is to learn how investment works at Evergreen; getting into

more granular details about its investments will come later. Other institutions that are farther along in the detailed analysis of their investments should be a good source of information when that time comes.

Meeting Schedule for the Summer

The DTF agreed to have full meetings on July 15 and 29, August 12 and 26, and possibly September 9. It will have optional one-hour meetings on July 8 and 22 and August 5 and 19. All meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Appendix to the notes – Working Agreements for the DTF

Working Agreements **Investment Policy Disappearing Task Force** Summer/Fall 2024

Communication: External

We will:

- Publish meeting notes on an appropriate college web location (to be determined), after all members of the DTF have had an opportunity to review them;
- Provide updates quarterly (for faculty, early in fall quarter in lieu of summer), at a minimum, in various venues (including but not limited to the Geoduck Student Union and the Faculty Meeting) to members of the Evergreen community;
- When providing updates, ensure that all DTF members present have the opportunity to speak;
- Provide avenues for members of the Evergreen community to send us feedback about information that we share in our meeting notes and updates;
- Otherwise refrain from sharing details about discussions within the DTF; in particular, we will not share details on the views and positions that individual members share in our meetings with anyone outside the DTF.

Communication: Internal

We will:

- Show up punctually for our meetings;
- Inform the co-chairs of any anticipated absence from a scheduled meeting;
- During meetings...
 - Maintain focus on the specific topic under consideration at the moment;
 - Raise our hands (actual or virtual) in order to indicate the desire to speak, and wait to be recognized before speaking;
 - Allow time for all to speak to our substantive topics;
 - Express ourselves concisely, so as to allow time for others to speak while also allowing the group to proceed with our work in a timely manner;
 - Refrain from personal comments about members of the DTF but focus our comments instead on the topic at hand;
 - Refrain from holding discussions through the chat feature (for remote meetings).

Meeting Structure

- The co-chairs will circulate a proposed agenda to all DTF members at least one work day (that is, excluding weekend days) prior to the scheduled meeting;
- Steff Beck will serve as primary facilitator; depending on the topics under discussion at the meeting, they may ask or invite other DTF members to facilitate parts of meetings;
- Dan Ralph will maintain the meeting notes for each meeting;
- At the end of each meeting, we will review next steps and any work to be completed prior to the next meeting.

Decision Making

- We will aim to make decisions by consensus. However, should reaching consensus prove not to be possible within a reasonable amount of time, we will vote.
- For decisions reached by consensus, the consensus decision will be recorded. For decisions reached by vote, the position of each faction along with the number of members adhering to that position will be recorded.

Consensus Process, Step-by-Step¹

(Note: Steps 1-6 are not specific to consensus decision-making.)

1. Problem stated and defined
2. Discussion
3. Proposal
4. Clarifying questions
5. Discussion
6. Modifications or withdrawal of proposal
7. Test for consensus
 - a. Restate proposal
 - b. Call for reservations
 - c. Call for abstentions
 - d. Call for blocks
 - e. Address blocks
 - f. Consensus is achieved if not blocked
 - g. Implementation and follow-up

Forming the consensus proposal

After discussing a problem from all of the various viewpoints, a proposal is put forward that meets the needs and goals of the group or organization. Proposals may be submitted after group discussion at one meeting and in advance of a decision-making meeting, allowing members to come prepared to the meeting.

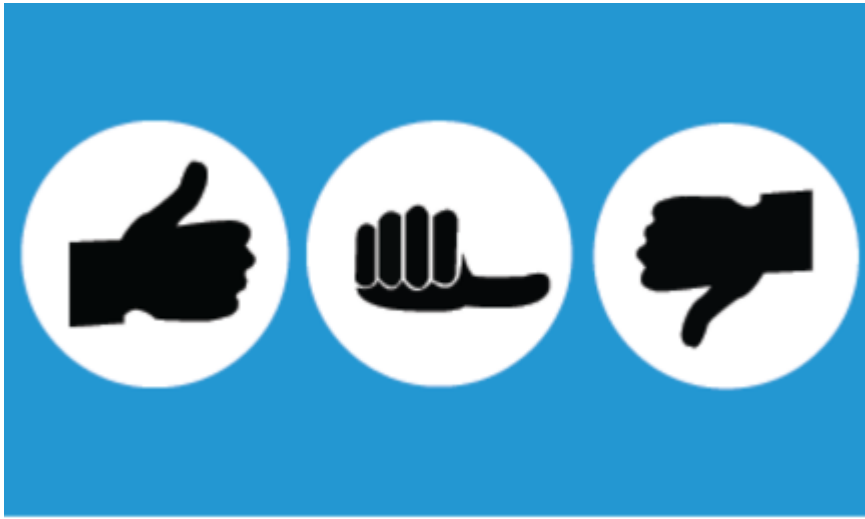
Lukewarm consensus

If many people express non-support, abstentions, or reservations, it may not be a viable decision, even if no one directly blocks it. Consider scrapping the proposal.

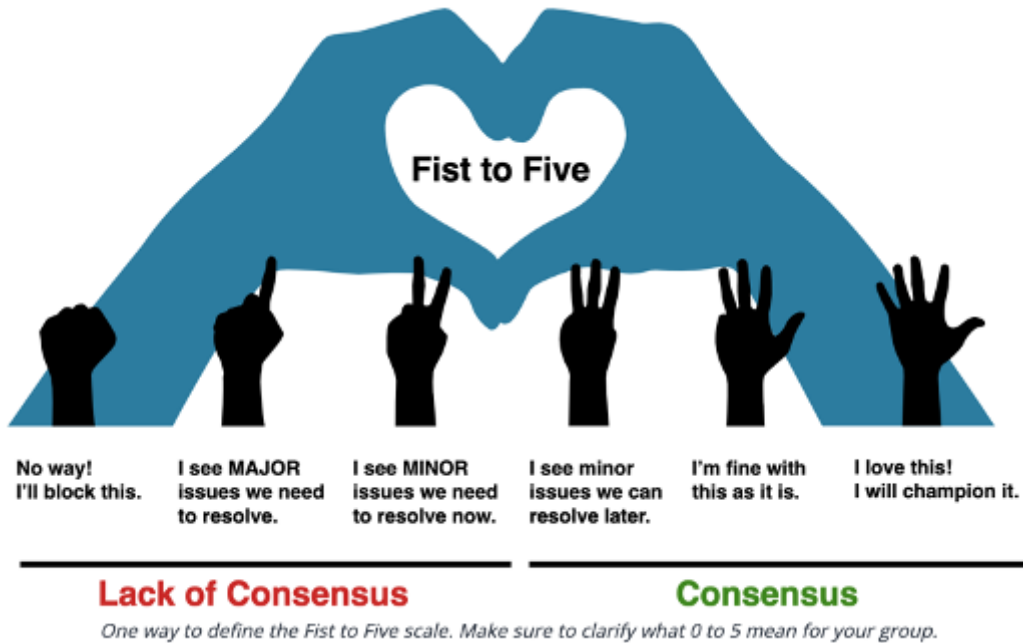
Strawpoll tools for avoiding stalemate.

Tool #1: Thumbs

¹ The following is adapted from material developed by Elizabeth Williamson for another work group.



Tool #2: Fist to five



Tool #3: Kaner's gradient of agreement

