



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

LASA Executive Council (EC) Meeting
Hilton Bonaventure Montreal, Montreal, Canada
September 4, 2007

Action Items

1. The minutes of the January, 2007 meeting of the EC are approved as revised.
2. LASA will provide \$25,000 in seed money for Otros Saberes Phase II if the program is viable.
3. The proposal for the LASA Commission on Academic Freedom as developed by Hershberg and amended by the EC is adopted.
4. Pereyra and Hershberg will constitute a committee to review the issue of grants for LASA2009 and report back to the EC.

Consensus Items

1. LASA adopts the investment principles as articulated by Ways and Means and agrees that the Investment Committee should consider the working proposal discussed at the EC meeting as a way to implement the move to an SRI profile while preserving the degree of diversity congruent with its fiduciary responsibility and long term management of the Endowment. The investment principles as articulated by Ways and Means are the following:
 - The principle purpose of LASA is to foster intellectual discussion; research and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the Americas, and to promote the interests of its diverse membership and encourage civic engagement.
 - LASA's permanent Endowment funds are invested to promote these primary goals. The Endowment funds should be invested in such a way as to minimize short term fluctuation, to protect the real value from erosion due to inflation and to achieve long term capital growth.
 - At the same time LASA assumes responsibility for the moral implications and social consequences of its investment policies. It therefore seeks to avoid investments that are inconsistent with the pursuit of peace, and the preservation

of the natural environment and a democratic, humane social order. In its equity investment, it should give priority to companies that protect the environment, support work place diversity and responsible worker-employer relations and otherwise contribute to the social good. At a minimum it should avoid investment in companies that manufacture armaments, munitions and tobacco products.

The Investment Committee should consider investment options that both advance social responsibility investment (SRI) goals and preserve portfolio diversity in line with Association fiduciary responsibility for the Endowment.

2. Hale will compose a letter thanking committee members and dissolving the current Labor Relations Committee. Hershberg and Pereyra will suggest an alternative for LASA2009, which may be a committee comprised of members residing in Rio or the local arrangements committee.
3. Hale will take the Latin Americanization discussion further in framing concrete proposals that may have implications for the Brazil meeting as well. These may include fundraising and/or a project to be embraced by the EC. The Latin Americanization Challenge should be included as an item at the midterm EC meeting.
4. There should be reflection of what worked and what did not for the Oaxaca delegation and an assessment made for presentation to the EC. Hale agreed to prepare the assessment for the next EC meeting.

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