



RESPONSIBLE  
INVESTMENT  
NETWORK  
UNIVERSITIES

# 2020-21 Year in Review

# What was delivered to RINU in 2020-21?

The RINU Secretariat co-ordinated **22** activities

- **15** roundtables, working group meetings, webinars and all-member meetings including:
  - Asset manager expectations, best practice, and engagement
  - Proxy Voting
  - How HEIs can maximise investment impact
  - Paris-Aligned Investments
  - Client-Directed Voting
  - Divestment and Net Zero Commitments
  - Decarbonisation
  - RI in Property
  - Big Society Capital Events (LPs in Venture) & (Impact Investing)

# What was delivered to RINU in 2020-21?

The RINU Secretariat co-ordinated **22** activities

- 4 reports and written resources for members
  - Asset manager reports (on the Mobilize platform resource centre)
  - Exploration of the language of investment ([‘What’s in a definition’](#))
  - Responsible investment policy library
  - Decarbonisation practices
- 1 press article
  - ESG Clarity; [Charities urge asset managers to vote in favour of ESG resolutions or be discredited](#)
- 2 shareholder resolution opportunities offered
  - HSBC
  - Tesco

# Progress & actions against objectives

**Objective 1:** We will form and grow a diverse network of university endowments, with a shared mission to invest more responsibly in line with their values.

- ✓ Agree a set of overarching goals for the network
- ✓ Agree a work plan for each year (running April-April)
- ✓ Steadily grow the number of members in the network each year with members who are committed to engagement and RI.
  - New members: Trinity College, Cambridge; St John's College, Cambridge
  - Loss of University of Aberdeen

**Objective 2:** We will increase the number of universities engaging with impact and responsible investment.

- ✓ Ensure three quarters of members attend both biannual meetings each year
  - Only one biannual held (**88%** attendance) this year plus 2 engagement calls (**56%** attendance)
- ✓ All members engage with a working group, event or advocacy project each year
- ✓ Engage to support members, the secretariat and delivery partner communications through Mobilize
  - **44%** average open/click rate on Mobilize
- ✓ Produce asset manager reports for the majority of the members and measure their use by members
  - Asset manager reports produced for all members and downloaded by **22%** of members

# Progress & actions against objectives

**Objective 3:** We will increase the amount of impact and responsible investment undertaken by university/college endowments.

- ✓ All members to have an Impact and/or Responsible Investment Policy in place
  - At least 4 members are in the process of updating their policies
- Members see themselves as leaders within their RI sector advocating amongst university peers
  - We have started to capture where members see themselves on a learner – leader scale, and will continue to support members, and offer opportunities to write / speak with press outlets and peers.
- ✓ Network members have access to the research they need to take the next steps on RI
  - Average of 30% of members downloaded reports
  - Average of 31% of members dialled in to events
- ✓ Network members undertake coordinated investor engagement activity with their asset managers and/or with investee companies
  - One member co-filed a shareholder resolution at HSBC
  - Two members have spoken to ShareAction's investor campaign coalitions to explore corporate engagement
  - At least one member has undertaken collaborative asset manager engagement with other asset owners, however, this was not coordinated via the network.
  - The work plan for the year ahead contains specific deliverables to facilitate and coordinate asset manager engagement.
- We develop a collaborative thematic responsible investment initiative developed through RINU
  - Advancing this has been a challenge this year; the opportunity to develop this further in the year ahead is more realistic and the work plan offers greater options for such an initiative to evolve

# Progress & actions against objectives

**Objective 4:** We will increase engagement between university endowments and their internal stakeholders.

- ✓ Network members develop a plan and undertake internal stakeholder engagement (e.g. staff, students, alumni)
  - AGM activism training undertaken with Trinity College, Cambridge via their RI Society
- ✓ Work with members to increase the representation of student and/or staff on their investment committees or equivalent form of substantive representation, including full speaking and voting rights, and a process for on-boarding
  - At least one member has included student representation formally as part of their updated draft RI policy

# Member Feedback

Overall satisfaction with the network averaged 4.1/5

## Network

*"Incredibly valuable"*

*"A useful network"*

## Events

*"Sessions were really good"*

*"This was really helpful, and I would encourage you to do more of these"*

## Reports & Engagement

*"I was very pleased to see that the analysis was technically sound and avoided the oversimplification and hysterics you sometimes see"*

*"Being able to take part and engage with companies, ask questions, file resolutions has been really great"*

*"These were very good"*