Intro

The ASSU is committed to investing its capital into funds which adhere to ethical criteria; specifically, the United Nations Global Compact, which focuses on human rights, anti-corruption, labor rights, and environmental issues.

According to data provided by ASSU's investment manager, funds that adhere to ESG principles (Environmental, Social, Governance) have been recently yielding higher returns than funds that do not; however, they come with the tradeoff of higher volatility. Fund volatility is the tendency of the fund's returns to rise or fall in short periods of time— funds with higher volatility experience higher fluctuations. So, while the overall return over long periods of time may be the same or higher, ESG funds can and will experience some periods of underperformance.

The ASSU already invests in funds that generally adhere to ESG principles. We are experimenting with putting a portion of our funds in stocks that more closely align with the ethical priorities of the student body. To help facilitate this, we'd greatly appreciate it if you could answer the following questions:

Questions

How comfortable are you with experiencing periods of underperformance of the ASSU funds in order to invest more ethically (due to overexposure or under-exposure to certain sectors)?

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Very uncomfortable

What causes are you most keen on seeing upheld by the ASSU's ethical investing criteria? Please rank them:

- Divestment from fossil fuels/non-renewable sources of energy (e.g., nuclear power production)
- Divestment from military firearms/civilian weapons
- Divestment from private prisons
- Divestment from vice companies (ex. Tobacco, alcohol, adult entertainment, gambling services)
- Divestment from surveillance technology companies
- Investment in human rights & labor rights focused companies

- Investment in companies that focus on employee/board diversity
- Other