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THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

Thursday, April 9, 2009

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- [Campus News](#) **New groups investment with a conscience**
- [Features](#) **Heeyoung Min**
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- [Higher Ed](#) **Issue date:** 4/7/09 **Section:** [Campus News](#)
- [Sports](#) A new student-run group will manage \$50,000 of the University's money that has been earmarked for "socially responsible" investments starting next fall, according to group members.
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For more than a year, the University has offered its donors the option of directing their into a "social choice fund," which presently has more than \$2 million and is managed by a socially responsible mutual fund. But some students wanted to invest a small piece of the University's money more actively.

"The best way to get student participation was to get them real money to do it," said Sa Byker '10, one of the founders of the new group, called the Brown Socially Responsible Investment Fund.

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The group will "negatively screen" companies that are deemed to be involved in environmentally unfriendly or otherwise unsavory activities and "positively screen" companies that take steps to accomplish social good, said Raisa Aziz '11, another of the group's founders.

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Professor of Economics Louis Putterman, chair of the Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies, said Byker and Kirsten Howard '09 came to him for advice on how to get the committee more involved.

A core group of seven students, including Aziz, Byker and Howard, presented a formal proposal last December to Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Be Huidekoper. The 10-page document was approved by her office in February.

The student investment fund will contain a strong learning component, including educational sessions that focus on issues and investment techniques related to socially responsible investing, Aziz said.

Members will also make presentations on their fields of expertise, which may or may not be finance-related, to help the group make informed investment decisions, she said.

"I think the way we'll be able to beat the market and succeed in our investments is to draw people from diverse backgrounds in Brown," said Byker, a former Herald senior staff member.

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