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## Immediate Release : Board of Trustees Joined Institutions Officials Voicing on Apartheid in Africa

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oct. 22, 1985

The Illinois Wesleyan University Board of Trustees joined a growing number of institutions voicing official abhorrence of the practice of apartheid in South Africa today.

The Trustees approved a resolution endorsing the policy of "Social Responsibility in Investing" of the Common Fund Corporation and the participation in and sponsorship by the Common Fund of the Investor Responsibility Research Center.

The Common Fund is a non-profit organization that provides investment management services exclusively for educational institutions. Wesleyan is a member.

The investment policy statement of the Common Fund reads in part:

"The primary purpose of The Common Fund is to maximize the return on the assets entrusted to it, while maintaining a level of risk that is appropriate for its constituents.

"In conjunction with this purpose, the Corporation intends to act as a responsible investor regarding practices of portfolio companies which could be considered to cause substantial social or environmental injury. Investments will be regularly reviewed from this perspective, drawing on publicly available information, reports developed by other organizations and direct research.

"Topics of concern include, but are not limited to, such areas as observances of the law, employee relations, operations in foreign countries and consumer and environmental protection...

"Although the Trustees have the responsibility to seek to maximize the investment return on invested assets, they do not believe that responsibility is inconsistent with action on the social responsibility dimension."

In addition to supporting the Common Fund Corporation policy, the IWU trustees' resolution calls for the establishment, in the near future, of a monitoring committee of three trustees to examine the practice of the University's portfolio companies and to report regularly to the board's standing Investment Committee.