President’s Advisory Committee
On Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
December 11, 2015, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
W2719, Wyly Hall

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Kelsea Ballantyne, Stacey Glemser, Sioban Harlow (by phone), Nicholas Rine, Susan Waltz, Rebecca Wren, Britney Rashleigh (staff to committee)
Absences: Kristen Ablauf, Khaled Eid, Eni Kruja

Committee Business
Minutes of the November 2015 committee meeting were approved.

Research and Educational Leadership
Chair Ravi Anupindi shared President Mark Schlissel’s response to the committee’s 2014 – 2015 Annual report and enclosed requests. Per the president’s response, the committee was approved and provided funding for three student summer internships (an increase from past years) and two new research assistantships. Deliberating the specifics of the summer internships, committee members decided to offer two international general funding awards for graduate students who submit a project proposal focused broadly on addressing, evaluating or improving global labor standards and monitoring. The committee decided to immediately move forward with publicizing these funding awards and set a deadline for midnight of January 24th, 2016. With respect to the third summer internship being offered by the committee, it was decided to once again offer a more structured and domestic internship experience open to undergraduate students. This internship would be publicized and open for application later in the Winter 2016 semester. Committee members also reviewed and approved for publicizing a call for applications for the two new Research Assistantships being offered by the committee. These research assistantships, one graduate and the other undergraduate, would focus primarily on conducting a spend analysis by category of the University’s non-licensed goods procurement, assessing potential social responsibility issues in these categories, and making a recommendation on how the University should address these in the future. The committee decided to immediately move forward with publicizing and set a deadline of midnight on January 11th for this Research Assistantship opportunity.

Operational Leadership
Kristen Ablauf, committee member and Director of Licensing for Intercollegiate Athletics, was unavailable to attend the committee meeting. Chair Ravi Anupindi will request that that Kristen come prepared to the committee’s January 2016 meeting with an update on licensee quarterly renewals and the committee’s request
to, in all licensee renewal application responses, include a letter from the committee expressing either gratitude for licensee compliance or committee disappointment with noncompliance and expressed urgency for remediation.

**Monitoring and Compliance**
Chair Ravi Anupindi reviewed recent correspondence received from the Worker’s Rights Consortium (WRC) and President Schlissel, byway of the United Students Against Sweatshops Local #17 (USAS), regarding Nike’s labor practices and refusal to allow WRC access to their factories. According to both USAS and WRC reports, after learning of ongoing worker strikes and protests at Hansae Vietnam, a factory disclosed by Nike as a producer of university logo goods, the WRC’s request for access as a third party auditor was apparently denied, undermining workers’ ability to communicate when workplace rights are being violated. After deliberation and review of the facts presented to them, the committee outlined next steps to gather more information (from WRC, FLA, and Nike) on the Hansae Vietnam protests and strikes, inquire on the status of the University’s licensing contract with Nike in terms of process to signing, and identify appropriate licensing contract language stipulating the University’s right to designate an independent third party monitor. The committee resolved to write a response letter to the President outlining their recommendations on how to address the Nike and independent third party monitoring issue.

**New Business**
Staff to the committee, Britney Rashleigh, announced that she would be sending out a scheduling survey over the University’s winter break to identify dates and times for the committee’s winter 2016 semester meetings. Committee members requested that the committee’s January meeting be scheduled the first or second week of the semester given the committee’s need to review all submitted Research Assistantship applications.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.**