President’s Advisory Committee
On Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
February 12, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
W2719, Wyly Hall

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

Committee Business
Minutes of the January 2016 committee meeting were approved.

Research and Educational Leadership
Chair Ravi Anupindi provided an update on the status of hiring for the committee’s two on-campus research assistantships, as well as international travel awards and summer internship with Sumerra LLC. In December of 2015, the committee posted for hire two Research Assistantship positions focused on conducting a spend analysis by category of the University’s non-licensed goods procurement. A total of 10 undergraduate and 8 graduate – were received. Upon review of the applications by a subcommittee, Kristine Schantz (graduate Erb MBA/MS student) and Ian Hecker (undergraduate Policy student) were hired. The project is being supervised by the Chair and committee members Kelsea Ballantyne and Stacey Glemser, who meet with students on a weekly basis. The student team is being provided data by the University’s procurement office and has been put into contact with several other internal and external stakeholders for information and advice. The student team will make a preliminary presentation to this committee during its April 2016 meeting.

Chair Anupindi shared that the committee’s International Travel Award received six applications and the internship with Sumerra LLC received 14 (7 undergraduate, 7 graduate). He solicited volunteers to form a subcommittee to review and planned to communicate logistics for reviewing applications via email.

Chair Ravi Anupindi also shared with the committee the recent announcement of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder of BRAC, as the newest recipient of the Thomas Francis Jr. Medal in Global Public Health. Bestowed by the Office of the President on a quinquennial basis, formal medal presentation and surrounding activities are slated for the first week of April 2016. Given that labor standards and human rights are also one of the focus areas of BRAC, the committee was offered an opportunity to meet with Sir Fazle during his visit. Chair Anupindi broached the idea with the committee whom overwhelmingly expressed interest in doing so. He plans to follow
up on this as additional details regarding Sir Fazle’s visit to U-Michigan’s campus are cemented.

**Monitoring and Compliance**
Chair Ravi Anupindi thanked the committee for their feedback on a recent letter submitted to President Mark Schlissel regarding Nike and recent allegations brought against the company’s labor practices and refusal to allow the Worker’s Rights Consortium (WRC) into their supplier factories. The letter, which stressed the need for transparency on behalf of licensees and the University’s retaining the right to designate an independent investigation, was delivered to the President who has agreed to inform the University’s general counsel of committee concerns as Nike contract negotiations continue.

In an effort to learn more of the allegations against Nike and progress made towards remediation, Chair Anupindi updated the committee on a recent inquiry made to the Fair Labor Association (FLA) regarding complaint-based investigations. According to FLA protocol, anyone can log a complaint with the organization, who will then follow up to launch an investigation if deemed necessary. Reports of such investigations are made public on their website. With respect to Nike and recent allegations made against them regarding Hansai Vietnam factory, apparently Cornell University had alerted the FLA. FLA determined that the issue merited an investigation and was in the process of hiring an independent firm to carry out this task. When asked for an investigation timeline, Chair Anupundi was given March as a tentative deadline for the completion of investigation and end of March for report publication.

Committee member Rebecca Wren reported that Cornell University and Rutgers University had written to Nike to allow WRC access to Hansai Vietnam factory.

**New Business**
No New Business to report.

The main meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM. Committee members, however, stayed for an additional 45 minutes review applications for the international travel award and Sumerra LLC internship. Not all applications could be reviewed. The Chair suggested he will reach out to the committee members to submit an electronic scoring of the applicants.