President’s Advisory Committee
on Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
November 14, 2013, 8:30-10:00am
Palmer Commons Boardroom 1, 6th floor

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Kristen Ablauf, Kelsea Ballantyne, Arjun Bhalla, Khaled Eid, Jim Gannon, Allen Hicken, Maya Menlo, Nicholas Rine, Susan Waltz

Committee Business
Next meeting will be December 10, 8:30-10am at the Ross School, Rm. R5020. Steve Busch (Brand Manager) from the Global Communications & Strategic Initiatives may attend the meeting to get acquainted with the committee and its work over the years. Student schedules are not available until early December so committee members can expect a doodle poll that first week after Thanksgiving.

Research and Educational Leadership
Committee discussed whether this would be a half or ¾ day event in spring or fall of 2014. The objectives of the conference are to build campus awareness of the committee’s work and issues over the last 15 years. Speakers could include company reps, a model supplier to share methodology with other suppliers, perhaps establish a panel discussion with representatives from our monitoring partners and the CLC. A subcommittee was formed consisting of KEid, KBallantine and the Chair.

Committee discussed restoration of the internship program. NRine’s Cambodia/UM law school internship program has flexibility to include graduate students from other schools. He is on the board of three NGO’s in Cambodia and familiar with region. At the committee’s request, he offered to edit the call to attract labor-focused graduate students from other schools. LSHR committee staff will assist in the organization of the applications and the review process.

Operational Leadership
Levi Dockers is now licensed and producing apparel with the University of Michigan brand. To address future similar requests from licensees, committee suggests a consistent parallel practice for all licensees. Licensees should have a clear understanding of U-M’s standards.

Monitoring and Compliance
The WRC has sent out a communication to universities to consider asking licensees to sign the current Fire and Building Safety Accord. To discuss this request, the committee compared the attributes of the alliance and the accord. In so doing, the question emerged as to whether the companies that have signed onto the alliance have a coherent line of objection to signing the accord. After the Chair reported on recent conversations with a licensee and the FLA, the committee decided to take action with an intermediary recommendation that the director of licensing and the CLC send a communication to licensees to build awareness on the issue and find out if any have voluntarily signed either one of the agreements. The feedback gained from that solicitation may help the committee address the issue of why U-M would require licensees to sign the accord. Committee members expressed interest in knowing the legal implications of the accord for licensees from each region. Discussion on this issue will continue at the December meeting.

New Business
No new business was reported.
Meeting adjourned.