Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights  
University of Michigan  

Minutes—Meeting of February 1, 2002

Present: Kristen Ablauf, David Deeg, Louis Green, Kevin Kolben, Larry Root, Steven Rosenberg,  

Absent: James Hines, Sioban Harlow, Rob Howse, Veronica Johnson

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the December meeting.

**Factory list.** Kristen Ablauf reported that the decision made at the previous meeting intended to ensure that the University is providing an up-to-date list of licensee factories is was being implemented.

**Discussion of the New Era situation.** The chair updated the Committee with regard to our request for a detailed response to the allegations of code violations in the WRC’s preliminary report. Following the January 18 meeting, the chair had telephoned Tim Freer, the human resources manager at New Era, to ascertain when they intended to provide the information requested. In that conversation, Freer indicated that a report was forthcoming from the external monitoring group engaged by the FLA as part of their application for membership. He suggested that this review of all four of New Era’s plants would provide the information requested.

Subsequent to that discussion, the FLA decided that they would not release the report to New Era until the FLA’s board had a chance to review it in conjunction with their April decision concerning possible membership. The Committee discussed next steps, noting that although New Era did not have the report, they could still respond to the charges. After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend that we inform New Era that because of their failure to respond in a timely and effective manner to our request, they are not fulfilling their responsibilities as a business partner. As a result, the Committee is recommending that the University take steps to suspend or terminate our licensing agreement.

There was discussion about the legal status of under the contract for a “suspension.” Although this was not resolved, the Committee decided to make this recommendation. Louis Green agreed to draft a letter to this effect and to circulate it by e-mail.