President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights

Minutes

Friday, September 26th, 9-11 AM

Present
President Coleman

Absent
Katherine Terrell

Observers
Lauren Heidtke

I. Welcome and Introductions
II. Charge to Committee from President Coleman
The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Committee members introduced themselves to each other and the President. The President presented the charge to the committee.

III. Review of the Committee’s History
The annual report for the 2001-2003 period was submitted by past-chair Larry Root, and the history of the committee was reviewed. Formerly a task force, the committee is beginning its fourth year of operation. The role of the committee in developing a code of conduct and contractual language permitting termination of contracts based on violations of the code was reviewed, as was the history of the committee’s involvement with and membership in the two major monitoring organizations, the Workers Rights Consortium and the Fair Labor Association. Educational activities including involvement in creating/promoting/funding of internship opportunities, experiential learning programs, workshops and symposia were reviewed. The President expressed her interest in the educational programs and indicated her interest in our continuing engagement in this arena. This sentiment was echoed by several committee members.

IV. Establish Goals for the Academic Year
Communication mechanisms for the committee were outlined with contact information for members, the email group and website for the committee provided. All reports from FLA and WRC will be forwarded to the committee when received.

Principle Goals for this academic year will be the establishment of clear procedures for responding to requests for action/potential violations of the code and continuing to provide educational programming in collaboration with other units.

Procedures. Currently, the committee does not have clear procedures regarding how to respond when the FLA or WRC notify us of potential problems or when a complaint is received by the committee. The committee will review past action and develop a set of procedures or steps as well as criteria for enacting those procedures. A summary of actions taken in response to the three situations brought to the committee to date was distributed.

Action. All committee members will review summary of prior actions and bring ideas to the next meeting regarding procedures and criteria. October meeting will address this topic.

Educational Activities. Committee members discussed various ideas for educational programs to be encouraged/co-sponsored by the committee this year, including the following:

A. A possible workshop or conference to present and discuss empirical studies of both corporate compliance programs that work and that donot work. Possible participants include: 3-4 faculty at Business School, 2 faculty in Sociology, 1 in Political Science and possibly faculty in the Law School. Co-sponsorship options: William Davidson Institute.
FOLLOW UP: Timothy Fort with Katherine Terrell, other committee members will email possible names.

B. Panel discussion of women organizers on freedom of association issues. Experience on the ground. Co-sponsorship options: IRWG, Globalizing feminisms project.
FOLLOW UP: Rosa Peralta with Sioban Harlow

C. In collaboration with Purchasing Task Force (PTF), a workshop or provision of materials on good practices.
FOLLOW UP: Consider when PTF is closer to defining its code.

D. A workshop regarding integration of women’s health clinics and monitoring of reproductive health components of the code.
Co-sponsorship options: SPH, Population Fellows, CIBE
FOLLOW UP: Sioban Harlow

E. Forum on Free Trade Zones in Latin America.
FOLLOW UP: Katherine Terrell

F. Seminar by Kevin Kolben, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.
FOLLOW-UP: Larry Root
Purchasing Task Force.

ACTIONS:
1. The chair and SOLE representatives will maintain communication with the Task Force.
2. A joint meeting may be held when the Task Force has developed a draft code.
3. The chair will communicate concerns about having two distinct codes for companies that may be both licensees and vendors.

WRC and FLA
FLA annual report is on the Web.
WRC annual report still needed.

Updates are needed on the Lands End inquiry.
Following the WRC 9/15/03 report on the Mexican factory, Tarrant Ajalpan, a question arose as to whether the University has a licensee interest in this factory or not.

ACTIONS:
1. Kristin McRay and Kristen Ablauf to follow up on Tarrant Ajalpan licensee status. Sioban Harlow will clarify whether WRC is requesting action.
2. Sioban Harlow will follow-up on Lands End inquiry.

NEXT MEETINGS: 9-11 AM, International Institute Room 2609 SSW Bldg
Oct 31
Nov 21
Dec 12

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