President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights
Minutes (DRAFT)

Friday, November 21st, 2003
9:00 – 11:00am

Present
Ona Hahs, Sioban Harlow (chair), Heather Johnson (ex-officio), Kristin McRay, Rosa Peralta, Larry Root, Lisa Stowe, Katherine Terrell

Absent
Timothy Fort, Veronica Johnson, Kristen Ablauf

1) Review and approval of minutes
The committee reviewed and approved minutes of October 31 meeting with one correction regarding sponsorship of WTO symposium by William Davidson Institute.

2) Announcements
No announcements

3) Lecture by Kevin Kolben on November 13
Kevin Kolben’s spoke of his work in Cambodia, in particular, he discussed how attention to labor standards could be incorporated into trade agreements. The lecture was well-attended, attracted a number of new individuals and will be listed as one of LS-HR’s programs for this year. Larry Root will let us know if a financial contribution is still needed from LS-HR.

4) Land’s End discussion
S. Harlow sent a letter on Nov. 5 to Land’s End, per the committee’s request. We have not received any communication as of the time of the meeting. S. Harlow received an email communication from Scott Nova of WRC reporting no change in status. FLA sent a memo regarding the Lands End situation which was distributed to the committee. S. Harlow also spoke with Katherine Stevens and reported that FLA had had a conference call recently with Land’s End and will be having another call in the upcoming week. At this time, Rutgers and other universities are moving towards non-renewal of their contracts. Lands End’s contract is up for renewal on 1/31/03 and involves about $12,000 in licensing revenues.

The committee discussed next steps in dealing with the Land’s End issue. The committee agreed that Land’s End has not responded to UM’s inquiries regarding violation of the U-M Code of Conduct and that both FLA and WRC communications indicate abrogation of the UM clause on freedom of association with no satisfactory remediation having occurred to date. S. Harlow will send a letter to Land’s End informing them that the committee will make a decision at its next meeting on December 12 as to whether or not to recommend that U-M not renew its contract with Lands End. To whom the committee should make its recommendation needs to be clarified.

5) Review of Procedures for Responding to Complaints
The committee continued to discuss procedures for responding to complaints, clarifying the steps identified at our last meeting and discussing the criteria that are relevant to each step.

6) WRC governing Board Meeting
There will be a WRC Governing Board Meeting in January.

7) Update on Other Possible Programs
The groups discussed possible programs, in particular:

- Panel discussion of women organizers on freedom of association: Experience on the ground being developed by Rosa Peralta and J. Lal with co-sponsorship from IRWG and the Globalizing Feminisms project. Rosa Peralta will bring further information on this program to the next meeting and the committee will discuss support.

- Forum on Free Trade Zones and/or Labor Rights in Latin America. S. Harlow noted that K. Kolben had discussed the role of trade agreements in monitoring labor rights and noted that the Central American agreement may include some innovative approaches. Katherine Terrell will look into possible timeline for this and bring further information to next meeting. Committee will discuss possible format. Possible title: “Can Trade Law be an effective forum for advancing health and human rights.”

- Collaboration with Purchasing Task Force (PTF), a workshop or provision of materials on good practices. Will wait for PTF to make its recommendations before moving forward on this item.

- Reproductive Health and Codes of Conduct – no progress to date.
8) **Schedule Winter Term Meetings**
   The group discussed possible meeting dates for the winter term. A list of possible dates will be sent out post-Thanksgiving and definite dates set.

9) **New Business**
   None.

**Action Items**

**Sioban Harlow**
- Draft follow-up letter to Land’s End, distribute for review and send by Monday
- Request external monitoring report from FLA
- Draft next version of procedures based on committee’s discussion.
- Check with Kristin how much a “right” to renew is part of licensee contracts

**Heather Johnson**
- Email committee with potential winter term meeting dates and determine schedule of meetings

**Rosa Peralta**
- Bring further information on Global Feminisms Project to next meeting

**Katherine Terrell**
- Bring further information/ideas on possible forum on Central American Trade Law and Labor Rights to next meeting