Labor Standards and Human Rights Committee  
September 10, 2004  9:00-11:00 am  
2609 SSWB

Minutes

PRESENT
Sioban Harlow (chair), Tim Fort, Ona Hahs, Heather Johnson (ex-officio), Veronica Johnson, Kristin McRay, Rosa Peralta, Larry Root, Lisa Stowe

ABSENT
Kristen Ablauf, Katherine Terrell

1. Review and approval of minutes
   · The committee moved to approve the minutes from the May 26 meeting with one change.

2. Announcements
   · Larry Root informed the group of a rule of law project being funded through the Dept. of Labor that includes a subcontract to ILIR. ILIR will be arranging visits by Chinese labor people in the coming academic year. Larry Root will send information about the visitors and related programs as people and dates are finalized.
   · Mary Gallagher will be replacing Katherine Terrell for the Winter 2005 term
   · Rosa Peralta gave information on her recently-completed film “Rebellion of the Maquila Spider”.

3. FLA Annual Meeting
   · Sioban Harlow reported on the FLA Annual Meeting that she attended in June. The information communicated at that meeting is also summarized in the FLA annual report that has been distributed. Of particular interest in the report is the information regarding freedom of association. A report on monitoring was given at the meeting by American Cap that has shifted from Category C to A. A strategy for us may be to encourage our suppliers to become Category A licensees.

4. New issues/Updates
   · Coca-Cola
     o Discussions about a coordinated University dialogue with response to Coca Cola regarding the labor standards at the bottling plant in Columbia continued during the summer. The UM, which does not have a license agreement with Coca Cola but does do some limited buying, will address this issue through the purchasing taskforce.
   · Glidan Activewear A third-party complaint has been filed at the FLA and WRC has communicated concerns about regarding the EL Progreso factory.
   · PT Data factory has been closed. A report on this case from WRC was distributed.
     It is an example of the kinds of cases we may be more likely to see with the ending of the multi-fibre agreement.
   · Puma-China
     o Mary Gallagher referred information about a case in China involving Puma which we forwarded to FLA/WRC.

5. Wage Transparency Update
   The group discussed new developments on this issue and what we should report to the President. FLA discussed the issue at the June meeting but has not pursued the issue specifically as their main focus on wage compliance is through monitoring. The only universities to make formal requests to their licenses remain Georgetown and Wisconsin, with Scott Nova reporting little additional progress since the spring.

   Some of our licensees have suggested a possible concern with public disclosure, and, as U-M is a public institution, this could be problematic. We discussed possible strategies for moving forward on this issue and agreed that we should develop a list of alternative options to present to the president as our fall agenda.

   NEXT STEPS:
   · Committee members will pass their suggestions on options to Sioban before the next meeting.

6. Academic Programs
   · October Reproductive Rights workshop
   · Rosa Peralta film

7. New business
   · Likely topics for the coming year are Wage transparency, MultiFibre Agreement and following through on specific complaints
8. **Next Meeting**
   - September 24, 9:00-11:00am, 2065 Fleming