Labor Standards and Human Rights Committee  
February 11, 2005 9:00-10:30am  
ROOM: 2609 SSWB

Minutes

Attending: Kristen Ablauf, Tim Fort, Mary Gallagher, Ona Hahs-Tenny, Siobán Harlow (chair), Rosa Peralta, Larry Root, Annette Stoehr (ex-officio), Lisa Stowe

Absent: Daniela Gerson, Veronica Wilkerson-Johnson

1. The minutes of 01/21/05 were reviewed and approved.

2. Announcements
   · A funding request from SOLE was distributed for discussion. The committee, noting that a number of co-sponsors had already been obtained and that outstanding requests were sufficient to cover the budget, voted to backstop SOLE’s request up to $250.00 for the event on 18 February if they are unable to secure sufficient funds from other sources.
   · M. Gallagher will give a presentation on the WTO’s impact on Chinese labour practices from 2:30 – 4:00pm today.
   · The new staff member, Annette Stoehr, was introduced and welcomed.
   · Rosa Peralta’s film “Maquilaraña” will be shown on March 18th room and time TBA.

3. Multi-Fibre Agreement – Update
   Attention was drawn to several articles e-mailed by D. Gerson that address reports of the expected and actual impact of the end of the MFA. O. Hahs-Tenny mentioned that recent US legislation (the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act) may help mitigate the impact on sub-Saharan Africa.

4. Academic Programs
   · Hahs-Tenny: Plans for a presentation and discussion of the impact of the MFA at the law school were discussed. Wed, March 30th is the target date.
   · Gallagher: An update on M. Gallagher’s work in China will be presented at a brown bag on March 29 at noon in room 1636 SSWB. Another brown bag about Chinese NGO’s is being considered for the fall term.

5. Gildan
   · Compliance
   · Correspondence with T-shirt licensees
   Immediately following the 21 January meeting of the LS&HR, the WRC sent a letter informing us that they had reached a satisfactory agreement with Gildan. Further communication with the WRC suggested that the letters from Universities helped bring final resolution. The committee concurred that a follow-up letter should be sent to the t-shirt licensees. A draft letter was reviewed and edited. The committee decided to wait until after we see continued evidence that Gildan is abiding by the agreement based on FLA tracking charts before sending the letter. M. Gallagher and O. Hahs-Tenney will check the FLA website for evidence of compliance. A decision will be taken at the next meeting.

6. Wage Transparency – Compensation Clause
   President Coleman’s letter of 8 February 2005 was circulated and discussed. She accepted the recommendations of the LS&HR committee, agreed to write to the FLA regarding monitoring systems for Category C companies and requested us to consult with the WRC and FLA to identify licensees which might be encouraged to upgrade their status. She also agreed to propose a MAP project to the School of Business. Assistant General Counsel Stan Bies will discuss these matters with other universities when he attends the FLA’s annual meeting.

   The president’s office was particularly interested in the MAP project and T. Fort indicated that he would be happy to field questions at the School of Business.

   Following a question about the cost to companies of upgrading their status, a discussion ensued to determine what incentives might exist to encourage them to upgrade to “B” or “A” status. We also considered what type of company would be most responsive to such a request. All agreed that we should ask the FLA and the WRC for help in identifying such companies. We thought that companies that have licenses with multiple universities may respond to that increased leverage. The pros and cons of increased publicity offered by the FLA for its compliant companies were discussed.

7. No Old Business

8. New business
   O. Hahs-Tenny asked if the e-mail from the WRC regarding the collegiate licensee, VF Corporation, is an implicit request for action from Universities. K. Ablauf confirmed that various VF subsidiaries do have agreements with the University of Michigan. It was decided that the e-mail was intended only to share information. The Committee will continue to monitor the situation.