Attending: Kristen Ablauf, Aria Everts, Mary Gallagher, Marian Krzyzowski, Ana Quinones, Steven Ratner, Larry Root (chair), Lisa Stowe, Katherine Terrell, Ada Verloren (staff to committee).

Absent: Greg Cohen

1. Approval of minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting.

2. Website/Survey

It appears that approximately 20 licensees responded to the website survey, although analysis is needed to determine whether some licensees are represented more than once. The licensees’ responses will be presented at the next meeting.

3. Recent communications regarding Hermosa Manufacturing

The committee took note of the emergency fund created by the FLA for Hermosa workers. Committee members also noted with interest the divergent opinions on the issue of blacklisting of former Hermosa workers by Chi Fung, another local apparel supplier. While the WRC stated that key licensees sourcing from Chi Fung (including adidas, Nike and VF Corporation) failed to remediate Chi Fung’s blacklisting violations, adidas issued a public statement claiming that the blacklisting violations were adequately addressed. The committee awaits with interest the FLA’s conclusion on the issue of blacklisting.

Once the FLA has come to a conclusion, committee members would be interested in receiving written statements from both the WRC and the FLA addressing the following questions: How has each organization addressed blacklisting violations? Are there ongoing problems at Chi Fung regarding blacklisting of former Hermosa workers? How many workers who lost their jobs at Hermosa were able to find employment elsewhere? Was there any interaction between FLA and WRC on the issue of blacklisting?
4. Presentations on campus

The chair reported that Nike, adidas and New Era have indicated that they would try to be available for an on-campus presentation. It seems that a March date makes sense (possibly March 16 as a suggested date).

The goals of the presentation would be both to educate the University community and to deliberate approaches to enforcing the University’s code of conduct. Committee members agreed that the presentation should help inform the ongoing discussion on approaches to enforce codes of conduct, given fierce competition in the industry. The committee would like to hear from both large and small licensees how they deal with the code and what the University can do in terms of selection and oversight to make sure its code of conduct is enforced.

One possibility for the presentation would be to have two panels.
- The first panel would describe the parts of the code that licensees can comply with easily, and then give details of problems with enforcing the code. Participants could include a big and small licensee, a worker/factory owner, NGO representative, or UM student who did an internship in a factory in a country such as Bangladesh or South Africa.
- The second panel would be more policy-oriented: giving the complexities of sourcing, how can universities enforce their codes of conduct? Participants could include a licensee, NGO representative, and a university licensing director.

Moving ahead with planning will be addressed at the next meeting on February 12.