Minutes

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 February 12, 2007 meeting.

2. Report on WRC meeting
   Larry Root attended the WRC’s University Caucus meeting on March 13. The WRC reported on its activities over the past year, including factory investigations. A question was raised about the time that would be available for investigations if the DSP were to be implemented. The WRC expected to continue investigations even if the DSP were to be implemented.
   The WRC also gave information on its fiscal situation and shared the 2007 approved budget. Main sources of income that have contributed to a growth in the WRC budget include affiliation fees (the biggest source of income), federal grants, foundation grants, consultation fees from the City of Los Angeles, and from Ontario Catholic School Districts.
   Speakers talked about labor problems and the dangers facing union leaders and labor activists in the Philippines; the difficulties of improving labor standards given the supply chains of global corporations; and ways to streamline a determination of minimum wage.

3. Report on DSP information session
   Approximately 25-30 persons attended the “DSP information session” that was held on March 8 to respond to questions about the Committee’s work and the University’s reasons for not signing on to the DSP. Committee members at the meeting discussed ways to improve the impact of the code of conduct. There was strong support for ensuring that action is taken before the end of the academic year.

4. Dialogue with mid-size licensees on code compliance
   Four University licensees have indicated that they would be willing to meet with the Committee to have a dialogue and to share information. The first meeting is planned for March 30. The target date for a second meeting is April 5.
5. Steps for gaining greater compliance with UM's code

To gain greater compliance with UM’s code, the Committee discussed developing questions that companies would be required to answer as part of the licensing process. In developing this approach, it was suggested that the committee collaborate with the FLA and with other schools who are members of CLC. As the beginning of an enforcement process, the purpose of these questions will be to require information about licensees’ corporate compliance program.

If this approach is followed, the Committee would work with the CLC to develop a process and language for conveying this requirement to licensees. This would explain the rationale for this change in the licensing procedure and the requirement that licensees wishing to be licensed or to renew a license have to respond to the questions.

The Committee discussed the timing of the implementation and criteria that would be developed to determine what are acceptable responses from licensees. The committee recognized the need to find credible ways/agencies to monitor or certify factories.

Steps to ensure greater compliance include the following: gathering information in meetings with licensees, formulating questions accompanied by a letter, deciding what action would be appropriate. It was noted that there is an FLA university meeting on March 25 and that it would be useful to draw upon central FLA resources, if they are relevant to the University’s plan.