MINUTES

President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights
April 28, 2009, 2-4:00pm
President’s Conference Room, Suite 2074, Fleming Building

Attending: Kristin Ablauf, Amy Cocuzza, Siobán Harlow (Chair), Allen Hicken, Peter Jacobson, Jennifer McLaughlin, Nancy Vander Kuyl (staff to committee), Efua Van Dyck (UM African Presidential Scholar), Ada Verloren, Leigh Wedenoja, Mary Sue Coleman and Gary Krenz

Absent: Brad Farnsworth, Brian Talbot

1. Welcome, Announcements, Review of Agenda
   Chair checked on members’ summer availability on email for matters that might require the committees attention over the summer.

2. Review of minutes – one change made to a discussion point in the February minutes under the JDH topic.

3. Educational Leadership
   - May 13 and 14 FLA Training at UM Business School currently being arranged by Heeral Coleman and Brian Talbot.
   - Report on Bangladesh pilot internship program. Three students have been identified. Program plans still being negotiated.
   - Planning will take place over the summer for the Fall 2009 Ethics Symposium, on the topic of ethical purchasing as identified earlier this year. San Francisco has an EP ordinance. Leigh mentioned that the Ann Arbor Mayor is taking this up as well.
   - Brian Talbot is working with Grace Augustine from WDI to write up a case study about Russell to be included in a case-studies series that WDI is publishing.
   - The LSHR Chair and staff will work with a student on a labor standards and human rights curriculum database. Leigh suggested that the LSHR web page post a link to this database on the undergraduate student orientation page.

4. Operational Leadership
   - Knights Apparel – Kristin had a conversation with Joe Bozich (President of Knight’s Apparel). They are laying the ground work for sales and researching demands for this kind of product.
   - 2006 report to the President on the Designated Suppliers Program (DSP) - Chair included this item on the agenda to inform the committee about work done by the committee previously on the issue of the designated supplier program. Specific recommendations were made to the University at the time, which led to the current increased focus on code compliance.
   - Follow-up on meeting with CLC – recommendations for UM participation. Members of the LSHR committee met with John Greeley (CLC VP University Services), Bruce Siegal (Senior VP and General Council), Liz Kennedy (VP of Corporate Responsibility) on April 2, to discuss background of CLC and its current research efforts on how to be of more assistance to universities on licensing matters related to code compliance and monitoring.

5. Compliance/Licensing Issues: Updates on Russell Case. WRC is investigating Russell’s claims to have offered paid leave to JDH employees interviewing for jobs at other factories before the plant closed in January 09.

6. Discussion of draft report and meeting with President Coleman

   Committee discussed the issue of LS-HR’s fit with the Center on Ethics in Public Life Center and their new web site. If the Committee articulates an educational strategy that it wants to pursue, this process may open up other possibilities for an educational home. The committee discussed the difference between “home” and “partner” and what happens when decisions need to be made and the “home” cannot address them. The issue of labor is at the heart of this discussion. With the recent dissolution of the ILIR, there is no labor institute to provide an educational home for the LSHR committee. Does UM want to continue investing in labor education and where would this take place? The committee approved adding an additional recommendation to the report.

   The Committee recommends that discussion take place as to whether the University wishes to continue investing in issues related to the future of labor and labor relations as part of its educational mission and consider the implications of that regarding development of core faculty and core courses in the area.

Rec Ila: this is a transitional year because UM more actively used its code. How far with UM take this role? Kristen noted that licensees
renewals are a process that continues to evolve. She now has a lengthy conversation with the CLC and the companies to review each category of the code and compliance. She is willing to continue with this screening method and the implications of Rec Ila.

At 3:35, President Coleman and Gary Krenz joined the meeting. Chair reviewed the report and gave a brief summary, stressing the need to reflect on process when an issue like Russell comes up again and feedback from UM will help define the committee’s educational scope. In a final statement, President Coleman thanked the Committee for the work they had done on the Russell case this year. She felt comfortable with the recommendation. She urged the committee to prioritize resources, plan for 2012 so that processes are sustainable and keep the focus on experiential learning.