THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR STANDARDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES
September 15, 2009, 8:30-9:30am
Fleming 4025

Attendance: Kristen Ablauf, Brad Farnsworth, Sioban Harlow (chair), Allen Hicken, Peter Jacobson, Kristin King, Jennifer McLaughlin, Sam Vigersky, Megan Vogt, Nancy Vander Kuyl (staff to committee). Absent: Brian Talbot
Guests: Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University; Gary Krenz, Special Counsel to the President

1. Welcome and Introductions
   Committee Chair briefly recapped the agenda & upcoming events before President Coleman and Special Counsel Gary Krenz entered the meeting.

2. President Coleman's 2009-2010 Charge to the LS-HR advisory committee
   President Coleman thanked the new and continuing committee members for their willingness to serve. She expressed her appreciation for this committee, its guidance on licensing issues and complaints that arise, and the thoughtful progress the committee has helped foster in this area. In particular, she re-emphasized her appreciation for guidance/leadership provided by the committee in regards to the Russell Athletic/Jerzees de Honduras case. For the 2009-2010 academic year, she charges the committee to continue to review its approach to code enforcement, to seek ways to leverage resources of the University to advance understanding of the issues involved in globalization, to promote education on the campus of current issues in fairness and human rights in international labor, to collaborate with appropriate academic units, promote UM’s leadership in pursuing fair labor practices with the CLC’s new initiative related to strengthening code compliance through the licensing process, to make recommendations about enforcing the University’s code of conduct for licensees, and to monitor efforts and complaint response. In closing, she asked that the committee continue to educate students and maintain its leadership on licensing issues. The President was updated on upcoming events and the recent posting of UM human rights and labor standards related courses on the committee’s web site. President Coleman and Gary Krenz left the meeting.

3. Proposed Meeting Dates for Fall 2009 8:30-10:00am are Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8.
   These dates were later changed to October 22, November 17 and December 8, all from 8:30-10am.

4. Research and Educational Leadership
   a. The LSHR web site now has a curriculum guide on its website (http://www.ilir.umich.edu/ColSHR/) click on Curriculum in response to increasing student demand for courses in this area and for ways to more easily identify these UM courses. Peter Jacobson suggested that the committee contact the Daily and the Record to publicize this page. Links will be made to other organizations on campus to make the page more visible.
   b. The Williamson Davidson Institute is writing a Russell Case Study.
   c. On September 23, the Fall Ethics Symposium on “Sweatshop Labor & Codes of Conduct: from Form to Function” will take place from 7-9pm in the 100 Gallery Room of the Hatcher Graduate Library. This event is cosponsored by the UM Center for Ethics in Public Life.
   d. Brad Farnsworth summarized the internship experiences of two graduate business students supported by funds from LSHR and the Center for International Business Education. Mr. Abul Azad organized their placement with a non government organization in Bangladesh where they examined agricultural workers rights and female workers rights. Students may be asked to make presentations to the LSHR committee or to classes on campus.

5. Operational Leadership
   a. FLA licensee training hosted at UM’s business school in May
   b. The CLC will discuss its new initiative with the LSHR committee on Sept 23, 12-2pm at the Stephen M. Ross Academic Center

6. Monitoring and Compliance
   a. The Russell Corporation was put on a 90 day review last June. Their UM license will be up for review in March 2010.
      - The US Congress sent a letter to the company last summer
      - The WRC has continued its investigations
      - The Coup d'Etat in Honduras has also affected this effort.
      - The FLA placed Russell on a 90 day Special Review on June 25 2009 with additional requirements see:
        http://www.fairlabor.org/news_releases_a1.html