MINUTES
January 14, 2010, 8:30-10:00am
Palmer Boardroom 1

Attendance: Kristen Ablauf, Brad Farnsworth, Sioban Harlow (chair), Allen Hicken, Kristin King, Jennifer McLaughlin, Brian Talbot, Nancy Vander Kuyl (staff to committee), Sam Vigersky, Megan Vogt. Absent: Peter Jacobson (on sabbatical)

1. Announcements - LS-HR committee is searching for a Winter 2010 term replacement for Peter Jacobson who is on sabbatical. Chair reported the sad news that Katherine Terrell, who had made significant contributions to this committee over the years and was going to fill in for Jacobson’s term, had passed away in December.

2. The committee unanimously approved the 12/8/09 meeting minutes.

3. Monitoring Compliance/Licensing Issues
   - Russell Agreement & License update
     The latest update, based on an email from WRC, concerned a mid December meeting that Russell held with Honduran workers to approve the distribution of the funds Russell had committed to provide in the agreement reached last month. More than a thousand workers attended, including non-union members. Workers received this first distribution on 12/21 – more than $1,000 per person regardless of union membership. UM’s renewal of Russell’s license would follow the general timeline of renewals beginning in March, and would depend on Russell applying. The committee reiterated its interest in sending Russell a note to express interest in receiving a new application.

4. Research and Educational Leadership
   - Plan Bangladesh internships for Summer 2010 – Flyer will be sent out next week with a due date for applications by the first week in February, 2010. Three potential placements are being discussed, two with the AFL-CIO and one with the WRC in Bangladesh.

5. Operational Leadership
   - ER6 – Follow up. UM is among three institutions, including UCLA and UNC, that have signed up for the initial phase of the ER6 program. Both UCLA and UNC are affiliated with both FLA and WRC. The UM licensee renewal date begins in March, which will also launch the first review of applications involving the ER6 program.
   - FLA trainings – Chair will offer UM as a hosting site again this year.
   - Financial reports and review of fee structures – FLA. The LSHR committee annually reviews the justification of expenses by the FLA and WRC. Committee members voiced some interest in scheduling a presentation by both organizations to discuss their budgets and their approach to assessment and/or evaluation of their impacts. The committee was reminded that the FLA and WRC present their budgets at their annual meetings (FLA will hold their next meeting in March), but these issues are discussed in greater detail with each organizations board members which include university representation. NVanderKuyl will re-circulate the annual reports for FLA and WRC. BFarnsworth offered to read their web documents and report back to the committee.

6. New Business – BTalbot brought up the topic of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. He inquired into ways the LS-HR committee can focus in on the impact of disasters on garment industries in an effort to streamline effective ways that universities can help workers in its licensee supply chains in times of crisis.

Next meetings: Feb 11, March 18, April 15 8:15-9:45AM, Palmer Boardroom