May 2, 2006

Professor Lawrence Root
Chair, President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights
2770 Social Work Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1106

Dear Professor Root:

Thank you for submitting the April 25, 2006, report of the President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights on the proposal for a Designated Supplier Program (DSP). I appreciate the hard work of the committee on this important proposal and the thought that has gone into the recommendations.

On behalf of the University, I hereby accept the committee’s recommendations. Specifically:

(1) Per Recommendation #1, I acknowledge and accept that there is an identified need to improve the effectiveness of our Code of Conduct on improving labor conditions for workers in the apparel industry. The USAS proposal and the committee’s report identify important factors underlying this need.

The University must seek feasible means to address these factors and meet the goals of our code, and I charge the committee, as a priority for 2006-07, to work with other institutions, the WRC, the FLA, and other relevant organizations, to do so.

(2) Per Recommendation #2, I understand that the committee has serious concerns about the Designated Supplier Program as currently proposed. I accept the recommendation that the University not formally endorse the proposal at this time.

I charge the committee to continue to monitor the development of the Designated Supplier Program as a possible future means to assist the University in improving the effectiveness of the Code of Conduct, and to the extent feasible, given that we are not formally endorsing the proposal at this time, to continue to engage with the WRC and other universities in discussion and analysis of the proposal.
(3) Per your Recommendation #3:

a. I am hereby directing the University’s Trademarks and Licensing Office immediately to begin the process of developing and implementing procedures to require licensees to document how they monitor/enforce our Code of Conduct. Such procedures should be reviewed by the committee, and I would like to receive a progress report on this charge at our annual meeting in the fall.

b. I charge the committee to work with other universities, the FLA, the WRC, and the CLC, to develop protocols to monitor and support adherence to our Code of Conduct. I ask the committee to cast a broad net in pursuing this goal, and to engage in discussions of any and all possible means. In addition to continuing to monitor the DSP, I would particularly like the committee to examine the emergent FLA “preferred provider program,” the FLA 3.0 program, and other possible developments relevant to this improving the effectiveness of our code.

I ask the committee to give me a progress report by December 2006.

Again, I thank you and the committee for your work on this matter, and I look forward to further progress in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
President

MSC/pjf

cc: President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights