President’s Advisory Committee
on Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
January 30, 2015
11:00am-12:30pm
Ross School, R6320

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Kristen Ablauf, Kelsea Ballantyne, Khaled Eid, John Meeker, Maya Menlo (by phone), Tim Pavelka, Nicholas Rine, Susan Waltz, Nancy Vander Kuyl (staff to committee)

Absent: Michael Counts, John Meeker

Committee Business
Committee approved the December minutes. 2015 meeting dates include: 2/20 (R6320), 3/27, 4/24, 11:00am-12:30pm. The March and April meeting locations are pending but likely to be held at the law school. Michael Counts is withdrawing his membership because of a reduction in his work appointment affecting his ability to attend Friday meetings. Procurement is searching for a replacement to maintain its representation on the committee.

Research and Educational Leadership
The 2015 Cambodia Internship Application date was January 26. One excellent application was received from a Nursing school masters student which will be accepted as one of the two awards. Susan suggested extending the deadline to Feb 12 for the remaining award because many grad students are just now applying for internship funds. The e-announcement language should emphasize diverse academics over law language to avoid any confusion that this might be a law student opportunity only. Nancy will edit and re-send to schools across campus.

Electronic copies of the transcripted notes from the October symposium’s audio files are now available. Kelsea provided summaries from the brainstorming sessions. She agreed to parse out the goals for committee action with 2-3 of those goals ready for subgroup assignments at February’s meeting. Committee discussed the idea of developing a web site platform that would provide information and tools on university and supply chain labor issues, potentially strengthening future communications on these issues. Ravi put forth the idea that the business school’s MAP program could take on this project, maybe next year. For now, the committee agreed to unify the symposium documents and post them on the committee website with a communication about their availability to the symposium participant listserve.

Operational Leadership
Update from KAblauf on Licensing: Licensee terminations have been underway as of 12/31/2014. Retailers are aware of this issue. Discussion of Jansport as a separate licensee, VF as umbrella corporation.

Monitoring and Compliance
-WRC: The WRC recently sent out a notice about the slow pace of the Gildan Villanueva factory in Honduras to remedy violations filed with the WRC in May 2013.

-FLA: The FLA will host a 2-day May or early summer training session at U-M for approximately 30
category C & D licensees. Committee members are invited to attend part or all of the sessions. Specific dates for this training are still pending.

-Fire & Building Safety Issue in Bangladesh
Chair suggested that U-M establish a communication pool with 4-5 other big schools. Committee discussed the content of the initial correspondence: present a bulleted list of topics, content and timing, summary update and status ending with the committee’s concerns. Nancy will join the Accord’s mailing list and send updates to the committee.

New Business
The Center for Positive Organizations completed a video interview of Ravi and Kohl Gill expected to be released soon.