President’s Advisory Committee
On Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
March 7, 2018, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
B4584 Ross School of Business

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Omolade Adunbi, Michael Counts, Monika Johnson, Fatima Nasir, Richard Neitzel, Nicholas Rine, and Lauren Smith
Absent: Khaled Eid, Kristen Ablauf, Stephen Yaros (staff to committee)
Guests: Lauren Belpedio (staff to committee)

Committee Business

Chair Anupindi called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm. Minutes from the February 5, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Several minor changes were suggested and accepted, and then RNeitzel moved to approve the minutes. LSmith seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Monitoring and Compliance

Chair Anupindi noted that the committee will hopefully get an ACCORD quarterly update from KEid at the next meeting. He noted that the Bangladesh building collapse tragedy led to two different agreements, leading to our university creating and releasing these quarterly updates. He also stated he would be reaching out to see what Alliance is doing for his own curiosity.

Research and Educational Leadership

Student Research Projects

Chair Anupindi posed the question of what “success” will look like to these groups of students and what is to be expected from them. MJohnson responded that the trend in her group, which is studying supplier engagement at the University, has been providing students with background on how the committee wants to leverage their resources to aid smaller suppliers in compliance, adding that a successful deliverable would be a set of one to two recommendations on how the committee could do that, and concrete next steps for the committee.

LSmith added that she also discussed deliverables with her group, which is studying environmental impacts of labor standards, noting her strategy of creating a benchmarking document that outlines Michigan’s procedures regarding licensing in
the environmental realm as compared to other schools, as well as recommendations on how to leverage resources and continue on.

Chair Anupindi then asked if the research team had connected with University procurement to understand their initiatives in addressing environmental issues. LSmith responded that a student group member had reached out to several individuals in sustainability but is unaware if responses have been received. There is no hard list available, as the names were simply discussed at the group’s last meeting shortly before spring break. Chair Anupindi noted that it would be useful for MCounts to connect with the right folks in procurement. MCounts added that it could save the group member some time by quickly gathering a set of more focused individuals.

Chair Anupindi offered the help of himself and KAblauf on licensing as teams reach out to other universities, much like the procurement office and their counter parts in these other institutions. He also noted that another organization to connect with is the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Coalition (SPLC), musing that the Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) may be a member. He said he could connect teams to the CEO of SPLC.

Chair Anupindi closed out the conversation relating to student research projects by letting the committee know that Stephen Yaros of the President’s Office, Staff to the Committee, will be sending out a poll for a presentation date somewhere near the end of winter term.

**Graduate Student Travel Award Application Review**

RNeitzel inquired about the final determination on Graduate Student Travel Awards. Chair Anupindi explained that, as of now, one award has been given to a student in the School of Public Health. For the second award, the Chair has had discussions with the three other shortlisted candidates, two of whom were yet to confirm their specific projects. Once they confirm these, the award will be finalized.

**NRDC Summer Internship**

Chair Anupindi reported that the committee received 20 applications for the NRDC Summer Internship. He thanked committee members for their assistance in reviewing these applications. Based on the reviews, he created a short list of six students, which were then shared with Dr. Linda Greer from NRDC. Three applicants – Andrew Hiyama, School of Public Policy; Safia Sayed, College of LSA; Gillian Yerington, School of Art and Design and School of Business – were then shortlisted for interviews. After 30-minute interviews conducted two weeks prior to this committee meeting, candidate Gillian Yerington was decided upon. Gillian has accepted the offer. Chair Anupindi noted that she will need to be connected with KAblauf in the near future.
FLA

Chair Anupindi reminded the committee of the series of investigations conducted at the Hansae Vietnam factory that produced Nike gear. These investigations led to corrective action plans that both Nike and Hansae Vietnam have been implementing. Recently, a final report was published by the FLA, according to which they seem to be satisfied with the remediation. Chair Anupindi said that a final report from WRC is still to come.

New Business

Chair Anupindi informed the committee that Georgetown University has reached out to him regarding food sustainability sourcing and if Michigan plans on convening a workshop or conference on the topic. He said we are open to the idea, though have yet to discuss it further. Chair Anupindi said he broached the topic with Steven Mangan, Senior Director of Michigan Dining, and Steve was interested in having Michigan Dining co-host the event. He also noted that MCounts mentioned something about food sustainability procurement from the President’s Office for the workshop.

MCounts reminded the committee that former President Mary Sue Coleman was a proponent of campus-wide sustainability initiatives. President Schlissel picked up on the idea of making food the focus of campus sustainability initiatives and provided funding for it. Some of the food sustainability work has manifested as zero waste events and compostable kitchenware, as well as guidelines for sustainable and local food purchasing.

Chair Anupindi said the information he has seems to be enough to start working with Steven Mangan, noting no need to discuss this further at this particular meeting. However, if the committee wants to execute this plan for the fall term, Chair Anupindi said they will need to start shaping it out at the next meeting when they will hopefully have more information.

RNeitzel informed the committee that there will be an E-Waste Recycling symposium on April 24, 2017 in Rackham. It will be an all-day event with seating capacity for 200. The event will also be live-streamed.

Chair Anupindi brought up two students in his class that have proposed a case study on cobalt which ultimately involves the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with dismal record of social and environmental responsibility issues. He noted that such minerals are part of many electronic items that are sold through the U-M Computer showcase, though none of these are licensed goods. LSmith asked if there has been any company that does electronics that has reached out to try and obtain a license agreement with the university. Chair Anupindi replied that he would need to speak
with KAblauf on the matter. He also offered to send the CBS news item regarding children mining in the DRC to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.