President’s Advisory Committee
On Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES
February 6, 2019, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
2065 Fleming Administration Building

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Khaled Eid, Safia Sayed, Omolade Adunbi, Paul Labute, Monika Johnson, Kiyoteru Tsutsui, and Stephen Yaros (staff to committee)
Absent: Emma Waitzman, Kristen Ablauf, Richard Neitzel
Guests: Kyle Sullivan, Melissa Robinson, Lauren Smith

Committee Business

Chair Anupindi called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Minutes from the January 11, 2019 meeting were discussed. LSmith moved to adopt the minutes and KEid seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Research and Educational Leadership

Chair Anupindi introduced Melissa Robinson to the committee, one of the two students working on the committee-sponsored research project concerning responsible food procurement at the University. Ms. Robinson delivered a brief overview of the status of the project and asked for the committee’s input and thoughts on next steps.

Chair Anupindi reminded everyone that the project was created in response to the President’s November 2018 letter to the committee asking them to look further into the topic so they can eventually provide the President with recommendations on potential actions that could be taken by the University regarding responsible food procurement.

Committee discussion ensued. Committee member PLabute commented that any suggested guidelines around the issue will need to be carefully crafted to ensure that they can be tracked and enforced with University vendors. It was suggested that ample background research be done regarding vendor codes of conduct at other universities to understand what is possible and how effective other codes have been. An analysis of third party organizations like the Fair Foods Council and others would also be useful input to the committee.

Another suggestion from the committee was for the students to fully define the landscape of food service providers at the University of Michigan. Who are our vendors and what percentage of the overall food at the university do they supply?

Chair Anupindi commented on the complex nature of the issue of food procurement overall, and that the committee’s eventual recommendations to the President will be a starting point for a
longer-term engagement on the issue. He mentioned that progress on licensing standards has been a 20-year journey, so patience is key.

Committee member PLabute mentioned that it could be beneficial for the students to work with the Office of Student Life to find out their process around student engagement when it comes to food service providers on campus. It is important to know what role different entities on campus play in this space to ultimately understand how they all interact on this issue.

Ms. Robinson thanked the committee for their input. The student research team will be scheduled to present to the committee about their project later in the semester.

**Student Presentation**

The committee had sponsored three summer internships in 2018. One of the students presented their work to the committee in November of 2018, another presented their work in January 2019, and the third, Kyle Sullivan, presented his work to the committee during this meeting.

Mr. Sullivan, a graduate student in the School of Public Health, worked to advance and conclude core components of a study, led by faculty at the University of Michigan and Mae Fah Luang University, into electronic (e-waste) recycling in Eastern Thailand from April through August 2018. By engaging stakeholders in identification of potential interventions in policy, governance, employment, and economic development that can influence e-waste streams and labor standards at e-waste worksites, the project sought to help improve local work conditions and identify methods and interventions that can be adapted to develop more responsible practices around e-waste production and disposal in different global settings.

E-waste is a growing portion of global waste and resources streams that has been harnessed for profit by a variety of recycling operations around the world. As the spread of e-waste recycling operations outpaces the spread of safe management practices, e-waste work presents a tradeoff between economic benefit and health and environmental quality in many global settings. Concern at all levels of organization is driving scholarship and programs to develop interventions that can reduce these tradeoffs.

The *Changing the Global E-Waste Cycle* Symposium, hosted by the Graham Sustainability Institute in April 2018, convened an international working group of e-waste experts to deliberate on policy interventions that could improve labor and health environments for e-waste workers. Through a collaborative design process, Mr. Sullivan joined the working group in envisioning a multi-dimensional, conceptual model of an ideal workplace describing key targets for policy development. The group recommended launching, adapting, and revising this model in diverse global settings to guide health-conscious policymaking around e-waste recycling.

Guided by the symposium’s outcomes, and in collaboration with local government, Mr. Sullivan conducted a descriptive survey of individual views concerning the effects of e-waste work on quality of life in the village of Khok Sa-at in Kalasin Province, Thailand, to help guide and
strengthen local policy development. The survey articulates emic descriptions of problems that, if addressed by local governance and policy, could help incentivize community participation in e-waste regulation, and health, safety, and environmental programs.

A brief committee discussion followed and Mr. Sullivan thanked the committee for their support.

**2019 International Travel Fellowship**

Chair Anupindi informed the committee that due to a low rate of applicants, the committee would be extending the deadline for the PACLSHR-sponsored student travel fellowship to Friday, March 1, 2019. The committee briefly discussed how to increase awareness of the fellowship to drive more applicants.

**Sustainable Food Procurement Conference**

The one-day conference on April 9 will bring together cross-functional efforts and stakeholders for a conversation about how institutions overcome unique sustainability challenges in food procurement. Chair Anupindi informed the committee that planning for the conference was going well and that numerous speakers and panelists had already been confirmed.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.**