

President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES

April 10, 2020, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time Zone)

Remote Meeting via BlueJeans

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Kristen Ablauf, Omolade Adunbi, Khaled Eid, Amanda Kaplan, Paul Labute, Richard Neitzel, Hannah Pierce, Kiyoteru Tsutsui, Emma Waitzman, Amy Argersinger and Joon Lee (staff to committee)

Chair Anupindi called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm and welcomed and thanked everyone for joining this meeting virtually over BlueJeans due to the COVID-19 situation.

The minutes from the February 27, 2020 meeting were adopted and the motion to approve was seconded.

Chair Anupindi provided an update regarding the 2020 Graduate Student Summer Travel Fellowships. The University of Michigan will be unable to support the travel portion of these fellowships due to university-related travel restrictions implemented as a result of the COVID-19 response. The two graduate student recipients are attempting to restructure their research to be remote and proceed with working their respective organizations. Depending on how their organizations respond, the PACLSHR will determine how to proceed.

Chair Anupindi provided an update regarding the 2020 FLA Summer Internship, which is sponsored jointly with the Donia Human Rights Center (DHRC). The PACLSHR, DHRC, and the FLA has chosen and offered the position to a candidate with the understanding that the work will be performed remotely due to the COVID-19 situation. The candidate has accepted the offer, and their work during the summer will continue to be supported by the PACLSHR, DHRC, and the FLA. U-M Michigan Dining, with whom the candidate was planning on working on their summer project, has also agreed to continue to support the project. The funding for the FLA summer internship will be adjusted to address the fact that travel to Washington, DC, may not occur.

Chair Anupindi addressed the status of the situation regarding forced labor in China. The impact of COVID-19 has shifted priorities for all involved, and has several layers of complexities. Order cancellations by brands are having an impact on factories, and is becoming increasingly problematic. The situation regarding order cancellations is being monitored, and organizations including the WRC and FLA are providing updates to Chair Anupindi and other university stakeholders as their responses to the matter evolves.

K. Ablauf also provided insight into the impact that order cancellations are having on licensing at U-M. The effects are wide-ranging and will be felt by all parties involved, including licensees. U-M will also be affected, with royalty fees from apparel sales being severely reduced. Fortunately, the renewal process of licensees will be able to be tested online, during the next cycle in May.

Chair Anupindi briefly mentioned the gravity of the crisis, and the uncertainty surrounding the situation. He opened the floor to the committee for any comments or questions.

A. Argersinger mentioned the postponement of Chair Anupindi's presentation surrounding food procurement to the university's senior leadership team. Chair Anupindi thanked her and explained to the committee that addressing food procurement with senior leadership is currently on hold, due to the COVID-19 situation. The matter will be addressed in the future, but the presentation has been postponed until university has resumed normal business.

Related to food procurement, Chair Anupindi shared that he was contacted by a representative from Georgetown University. They requested assistance in potentially developing a code of conduct pertaining to food. The work that the PACLSHR has done so far, as well as the results of the 2020 FLA summer internship may be helpful as the committee considers partnering with Georgetown and other institutions.

Chair Anupindi discussed the possibility of having a PACLSHR meeting in early May. Currently, there is a time scheduled, but it may not be necessary. Chair Anupindi congratulated and thanked H. Pierce and E. Waitzman, who are both graduating, for their service on the committee. In the event the May meeting is cancelled, he also thanked the rest of the committee members for their work throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.