

President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights

NOTES

November 19, 2020, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Remote (Meeting held over Zoom)

Attendees: Ravi Anupindi (chair), Kristen Ablauf, Khaled Eid, Alexis Handal, Amanda Kaplan, Allison Kolpak, Leila Kawar, Paul LaBute, Junghoon Park, Joon Lee (staff), Steve Yaros (staff)

Absent: Christian Davenport

Guests: Phoebe Johnson, PACLSHR Summer 2020 Intern

Elizabeth Kennedy, Director, Ethical Labor and Sustainability, UCLA

Sapna Thottathil, Associate Director of Sustainability, University of California System

Steve Mangan, Senior Director, Michigan Dining

Chair Anupindi called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and welcomed committee members and invited guests to the second meeting of the academic year. Guests and committee members introduced themselves.

PACLSHR Summer 2020 intern Phoebe Johnson provided an overview of her research project. The project was designed to evaluate fair labor conditions within the procurement processes of the University of Michigan's Dining Services. The project was advised by Chair Anupindi, Steven Mangan, Senior Director, Michigan Dining, and Michiko Shima, Technical Director, Supply Chain Innovation and Partnerships, Fair Labor Association. P. Johnson provided an overview of labor abuses in the U.S. agro-food system and outlined ways that U-M Dining Services could leverage its vendor relationships to drive systemic change.

After the presentation, Chair Anupindi invited guests Liz Kennedy and Sapna Thottathill to share more on their perspectives on sustainability, procurement, and licensing within the context of their organizations. They shared the opportunities present to communicate with licensing partners and encouraging sustainable practices in food systems. The effects of COVID-19 on these partnerships moving forward were discussed. Guests Kennedy and Thottathill expressed interests in collaborating with U-M and other organizations to enact change on a national scale.

Chair Anupindi and J. Lee shared updates on the application process of the Winter 2021 Research Assistants student opportunity. The deadline is upcoming, and committee members will be reviewing applications with the goal of having the research assistants begin their work early in the winter 2021 semester.

Chair Anupindi called on K. Ablauf to provide an update regarding licensing at U-M. She shared several updates on licensee renewals and will share more during next meeting.

Chair Anupindi shared updates from the Fair Labor Association (FLA) board meeting he attended recently. At the FLA, a tool to evaluate fair compensation is in the process of being implemented

for licensees and suppliers to collaborate. The FLA is interested in determining which organizational partners have completed their e-learning module which helps provide information on fair labor standards. There is also an agriculture program initiative being developed, where the FLA will be able to accredit companies if these companies abide by guidelines such as lobbying with a focus on fair labor standards. Chair Anupindi also mentioned the formation of FLA's Student Committee, where university students across the country work together to provide expertise and offer unique perspectives on how to advance the shared mission of the FLA.

Discussions were held surrounding the call for applications document for the upcoming summer 2021 graduate student travel fellowship opportunity. Chair Anupindi requested that committee members submit any feedback regarding this document to J. Lee. The committee plans to distribute this opportunity among the university community in December, with an application deadline in January 2021.

Discussions were held surrounding the upcoming summer 2021 internship opportunity. Chair Anupindi referenced P. Johnson's work as an example of this opportunity from last year. He also provided additional examples from previous years, welcoming ideas from the committee. Chair Anupindi has also reached out to various units across campus and in his network to solicit any ideas for this internship. The committee plans to distribute this opportunity among the university community in December, with an application deadline in January 2021.

Chair Anupindi thanked committee members for sharing their thoughts on potential student research and encouraged additional brainstorming after the meeting. He will follow up with the committee to further generate and refine ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.