

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
LABOR STANDARDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Meeting Notes for Friday, April 22, 2022
Zoom Meeting 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the research assistants who were invited to present their progress and seek feedback from the committee on their research project. Zina Abourjeily, School of Public Health Master of Public Health graduate student, and Ethan Patrick, College of Literature, Science and the Arts Political Science undergraduate student, were selected by the committee from a pool of student applicants that applied to the committee's annual open call for research assistants.

Research Assistants' Presentation

Zina Abourjeily and Ethan Patrick presented research based on mechanisms for reporting labor violations and potential best practices to combat farmworker labor violations. The research focused on issues of language barriers, undocumented immigrants, housing, trafficking, work safety hazards, and wage theft.

After the presentation the Chair asked if there were any questions or input for the research assistants and indicated that the current report is in the shared folder and the Chair will share that file with the committee.

The committee members asked questions about the experts that were interviewed by the research assistants for the project and who is involved in vetting complaints and getting resolutions to the issues they raised. Committee members also posed that it would be interesting that if in the remaining time of the project the RAs could find out if any of the programs are applicable to Michigan that were mentioned as in practice on the Ohio State University campus. Further, there were suggestions from the committee that the students focus on some suppliers and questions about how tracking can be consolidated, since it was stated that it is difficult for universities to focus on individual commodities.

The Chair questioned the RAs about the availability of any information related to workers' families, childcare, and access to health care because families were mentioned as antidotes but not directly in the research. The research assistants included mentions of the New York state laws but were not sure about Michigan legislation. Professor Handal suggested they review the farm worker social services and the United Farm Workers of America websites as a research resource.

The student research assistants were thanked for their work and excused from the meeting.

Updates from Chair & Director for Trademarks, Licensing and Partnerships

I. Minutes from January Meeting

The Chair asked for a review of the January 2022 meeting minutes. Professor Leila Kwar moved to accept the minutes. Junghoon Park seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the full body without dissent.

II. Trademarks, Licensing and Partnerships Updates

Kristen Ablauf, Director of Trademarks, Licensing and Partnerships, provided an update that similar to the last report discussed at January's meeting, revenues are beginning to trend up and we are beginning to run even with our previous years' numbers. There are still supply chain issues but there is a better sentiment of customers out making purchases. The University is taking its lead from the organizations/merchandisers that we work with for licensing but will we reach out to licensees if requested to do so.

III. Graduate Fellowships

We had three graduate student that responded to our open call for graduate fellowship applications and two of the three were very strong. After review of the applications and consultation with the president's office, we have selected two applicants and both will be funded by the president's office. The graduate fellowship awardees are Trevor Orginski, Gerald R. Ford School Master of Public Policy graduate student, and Lai Wo, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts doctoral candidate for Sociocultural Anthropology.

III. FLA Internships

We had eleven students respond to our open call for two openings for the Fair Labor Association summer internship. After review of the applications we have selected two applicants. The internship awardees are Nina Naffziger, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts International Studies and Middle East Studies undergraduate student, and Hongyu Yu, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Chinese Studies graduate student.

Planning for Next Year: Discuss Topics for Fall/Winter RA Work

I. Student Research Projects

The Chair presented the research work that has been completed over the last few years for the committee to consider what we should focus on in the future and opened discussion for input from the committee.

Kristen Ablauf, Director of Trademarks, Licensing and Partnerships, mentioned that since licensing is returning to its previous levels there could be some projects through the Collegiate Licensing Company, as they are putting together questionnaires. Student could do a deeper dive into the information that is going into the dashboards. Research Assistants could also work with Sumerra and consider what we do with information for data analysis.

The Chair asked Kristen if there are any opportunities in promotional products. Kristen responded that that area is more difficult but there is a possibility for a project. The University is trying to limit the

number of manufacturers we work with for promotional products but request continually come in from academic departments to license companies. Rarely are the request based on the business practices of organization but more so on the desire for a particular product. The FLA has created a program large manufacturers to determine what their business practices are because most of the small direct retail stores are getting their products from these large manufacturers not knowing the labor practices of the organization.

Professor Leila Kavar suggested working with Luis C. deBaca who is now at the university's law school. His area of expertise is trafficking and he was on former president Barack Obama's team as an ambassador. He may be interested in our work on this committee.

In regards to suggestions for organizations to work with for our graduate fellowship program the organization suggested is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The suggestion has been forwarded to the Donia Center to investigate. If there are any other suggestions for organizations please send them along.

II. Food Sustainability Conference

We were planning for the conference on food sustainability but it was postponed to the first week of November. The student team is still intact with only one graduating. We will resume planning for the conference in the fall semester.

Celebrating our Graduating Student Committee Members

Junghoon Park, graduate student committee member, is graduating and will be stepping away from the committee. Allison has served 2 years on the committee and also will be stepping away. The Chair has reached out to the faculty for student recommendations to serve on this committee.

The Chair asked for suggestions about doing the work of the committee better and more effectively and thanked the faculty and staff who have agreed to continue to serve.