

President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights

MINUTES

March 21, 2014, 11:30-1:00pm

Law School South, Room 1070

***Attendees:** Kristen Ablauf, Ravi Anupindi (chair), Khaled Eid, Maya Menlo, Nicholas Rine, Susan Waltz*

***Absences:** Kelsea Ballantyne, Arjun Bhalla, Jim Gannon, Allen Hicken*

Committee Business

Approval of February 21 minutes are contingent on staff's follow up confirmation with AHicken.
Remaining meeting for 2014 will be 11:30-1:00pm on April 11, 2014, School of Social Work

Operational Leadership

Committee reviewed the finalized version of the Code from the President's Office. Staff will post on committee web site and K Ablauf will communicate to the CLC.

KAblauf licensing update: The Athletics Department is reviewing its contract with CLC which is scheduled to end on June 30, 2014. They are looking at options to best manage the program with a key focus on staffing to be able to deal with issues similar to those of recent years. Its long-term emphasis on labor standards is not expected to change. Other companies are presenting their programs to the Athletics Department. A decision is expected sometime soon.

Research and Educational Leadership

-Fall 2014 conference updates:

Chair reported briefly on the conference planning for fall. He was able to meet briefly with M Posner while Posner was on campus in March. The prospects continue to look good for a fall conference. While the topic of building and fire safety issues continues to be a high priority for the committee, the symposium's intent is to recognize and celebrate the committee's 15 year anniversary by presenting on a variety of themes.

KBallantyne had a schedule conflict with today's meeting but will provide further updates at the April meeting.

-Cambodia internships:

NRine commented on the internship planning process for the two awardees plus three affiliates from his program at the Law School that plan to intern in Cambodia over the spring/summer. Three to four more students may join the core group. NRine is in communication with contacts in Cambodia tracking down some leads at NGO's that align with the interests of the student interns.

-Update on Case Study Alta Gracia:

Chair commented on the recent student/faculty trip to the Alta Gracia Factory in the Dominican Republic. KBallantyne received committee support to participate in this study and travel to the factory and to the company's headquarters in South Carolina. At the April meeting, she will report on those visits. A draft of the case study is anticipated by the end of April.

Monitoring and Compliance

-Fire and Building Safety Issues:

Chair submitted the committee's recommendations to the President's Office. A public decision on those recommendations is expected sometime soon. Committee briefly discussed recognition of companies that have made a decision that aligns with the University's recommendations. Many brands have and will continue to leverage positive exposure towards themselves on this issue. Third party recognition of those companies such as those announced by USAS may help to further this effort. KAblauf offered to have the Licensing Department send a letter of recognition to companies. How licensees might present to U-M their alternate plans on the topic of fire and building safety to the university is still under discussion.

-Report on UAC meeting March 6

KBallantyne and Chair attended the University Advisory Meeting in Texas on March 6. As KBallantyne was unable to attend today's PACLSHR meeting, she will further report on this UAC meeting at the committee's April meeting. In brief, Chair highlighted the issues brought up during the meeting. Participants of the meeting challenged the FLA to leverage student resources in a more targeted way. Some questioned its lack of public communication on the fire and building safety issues. FLA's new president, Claudia Coenjaerts spoke on the FLA's long-term goals, one being increased focus on implementation. Unlike the WRC which has a fixed focus on factories, the FLA has broadened its outlook on labor issues to include conflict minerals and the cotton/slave labor industry. The Responsible Sourcing Network's web <http://www.sourcingnetwork.org/> is a good reference point for these topic areas.

-Review of FLA and WRC reports

At the April meeting, KEid and AHicken will present general overviews on the WRC and FLAs' most recent financial reports (2011).

New Business

Chair commented on the committee's future direction and education leadership on campus. To increase campus awareness and establish public dialogue on labor issues, the committee may consider establishing a seminar series.