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OCT.28.1998 3:36AM THE KENAN ETHICS PROGRAM

NO.472 P.1

To: Lee Bollinger

Fax: (734) 936-3529

From: Harry Wu

Laogai Research Foundation, Executive Director

Re: Principles for Effective University Codes of Conduct

[040]

OCT.28.1998 3:36AM

THE KENAN ETHICS PROGRAM

NO.472 P.2

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At Netics

October 26, 1998

Lee Bollinger
2074 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Martha Johnson Chaddock
Manager of Trademark Licensing
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear President Bollinger and Ms. Johnson Chaddock:

I have been following closely the student movement to persuade universities to adopt strong labor standards for licensing contracts. I spent nineteen years of my life in China's vast labor camp system, known as the Laogai. I survived my experience, but many more have either perished, or disappeared into the Laogai forever. It is these prisoners who are today forced to make many goods that are sold in stores all over the United States.

Recently, I have even been in contact with students and have learned of the current status of your 14-university task force, which I understand will soon release a universal code of conduct for hundreds of universities. Right now, you have the unique historical opportunity to improve the lives of millions of workers all over the world. While I commend you on your willingness to address these important issues, I agree with the students and am concerned that the adopted code will have several flaws.

Human rights and secrecy are incompatible. If you allow licensees to produce in factories whose addresses are not publicly known, you create the circumstances under which forced labor and child labor persist. Even if university administrators have this information and dedicate funds to monitor a small percentage of factories, there is no assurance that inhumane conditions have been prevented in the vast majority of factories.

My research foundation spends much of its resources simply trying to locate Chinese forced labor camps with extensive field research. However, we never have any assurance that we have found all or even the majority of those camps. Universities would aid the work of my foundation and thousands of other human rights groups if they would simply release publicly the factory addresses that are covered by your labor code.

Full public disclosure will allow *all* human rights groups – not just the ones chosen by the companies – to find university-producing factories, interview workers, and report to you when there is a violation of the code. Moreover, by making the list of factory addresses available to your students, you empower them to contact human rights groups and arrange for worker interviews of the factories that go unmonitored by universities. This partnership of students, human rights groups, and workers will be a valuable educational experience and create the transparency that is needed to enforce the labor standards you have created. Instead of spending our time finding dots on the map, we can spend our time investigating what products are being made at these locations, and what conditions are like there.

According to students, the other area of the labor code that is still inadequate is the wage standard. I understand that universities are planning to enforce only legal minimum wages. However, in many developing countries, legal minimum wages do not allow workers to adequately feed or clothe their children. If universities really want to end sweatshop conditions, they must also agree to conduct cost of living analysis and enforce "living wages."

After discussing these issues with students, we have agreed that there are a minimum of seven elements that are essential to an effective code of conduct. The Duke University Code of Conduct only meets five of these seven principles. We encourage you to argue for the inclusion of the final two principles in the task force code, and if the task force creates a code that falls short of these standards, we encourage you not to accept it. Americans do not want to buy clothing made from the blood and tears of exploited workers, and they can only purchase university clothing in conscience if all seven of these principles are fulfilled.

Sincerely,



Harry Wu
Laogai Research Foundation, Executive Director

The following co-signers represent an anti-sweatshop organization at one of the task force universities. They also represent anti-sweatshop organizations at the more than 50 university campuses that have a chapter of United Students Against Sweatshops.



Tico Almeida
Duke University



Eric Brakken
University of Wisconsin



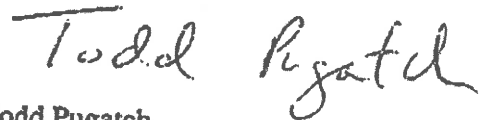
Eric Dirnbach
University of Michigan



Arne Ekstrom
University of Arizona



Dennis Grammenos
University of Illinois



Todd Pugatch
University of North Carolina



Ben Smith
Georgetown University



Moira Wichman
Kansas State University



Andrea Yee
New York University

Enc:

Principles for Effective University Codes of Conduct

- 1. Full Public Disclosure of Factory Addresses.***
- 2. Living Wages (as determined by university-sponsored cost of living analysis).***
- 3. Independent Monitoring (by university-selected organizations).**
- 4. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining.**
- 5. Safe Working Conditions.**
- 6. No forced Labor.**
- 7. No Child Labor.**

*** denotes a principle that has not yet been met by any university codes of conduct.**