

Labor Standards and Human Rights Committee
April 16, 2007 8:30-10:00 a.m.
ROOM: 2218 School of Education

Minutes

Attending: Kristen Ablauf, Greg Cohen, Aria Everts, Mary Gallagher, Marian Krzyzowski, Ana Quinones, Steven Ratner, Larry Root (chair), Lisa Stowe, Katherine Terrell, Ada Verloren (staff to committee).

1. Approval of minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the March 19, 2007 meeting.

2. Review of FLA University meeting

Larry Root attended the FLA's meeting in Orlando, Florida. The FLA presented a variety of issues, including the plans for the pilot of their Enhanced Licensee Program. The University has volunteered to participate in this pilot.

Prior to the meeting, representatives from several large licensing schools, including Michigan, met informally with Scott Nova from the WRC to discuss the DSP and related issues, including the closing of BJ&B.

3. Committee's meeting with two licensees

The committee met with two UM licensees, a cap company and provider of a variety of apparel products. They represented two very different situations in terms of sourcing. The cap company has used the same factory to make caps for over thirty years. The other licensee, whose products include apparel such as T-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts, has sourced from different factories and it does not have long-term relationships with specific factories. It selects factories based on trade shows and enforces the code by only sourcing from factories that have been certified by WRAP.

4. Committee Recommendations

The committee discussed and voted on three questions.

- a) Should the University change its licensing procedures to require that, as a condition for new licenses and renewals, licensees adequately document how they monitor the code of conduct in their facilities and those of their suppliers?**

After discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend this action to the President. In consultation with relevant organizations and other universities, the committee will develop protocols and criteria for determining what an acceptable response from a licensee is.

The committee emphasized that this new requirement should be implemented as soon as feasible, with the expectation that work on this will begin during the summer.

- b) If feasible, should the University use the information system being developed by the FLA to collect information about the actions and capacity of licensees to monitor the code of conduct in their facilities and those of their suppliers?**

The committee voted unanimously to recommend this, with the understanding that delays in the FLA's pilot program would not delay the implementation of the committee's recommendation to require monitoring information from licensees.

- c) Should the committee recommend that the University not endorse the DSP?**

The committee, by a vote of 9-1, voted to recommend that the University not endorse the DSP.

5. Announcement

The committee will meet with UM President Coleman to discuss its recommendations on Friday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m.