

Minutes
President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
November 16, 2011
Gentry Building Room 246
3:00 p.m.

Present: Amber Albee, Kelsey Barringham, Philip Dwire, Kimberly Fearney, Shareen Hertel, Nina Hunter, Leslie Langworthy, Richard Miller, John Sears, William Simpson, and Timothy Tolokan

Absent: Robert Bird, Samson Kemenyi, Peter Kochenburger, Dennis Pierce, and Rachel Rubin

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Hertel.

Minutes: Chair Hertel asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made by William Simpson to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Timothy Tolokan and approved.

Website update: briefing on updates, request for comments: Chair informed the committee that the minutes and revised committee list have been uploaded. Shareen shared with members the revised committee list and asked them to review and make any necessary changes. Chair asked the members if they have ideas to improve the website to email them to her or Lillian Bosques.

Update on beverage contract: Leslie Langworthy informed the Committee that the responses for the Pouring Rights RFP are due the week after Thanksgiving. Additionally, Purchasing is in the early stages of the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for UConn branded bottled water. There is language in the RFP indicating that preference will be given to water sourced from local springs within the State of Connecticut, although water sourced from non-local springs or purified water products may be given consideration at the University's discretion. Richard Miller asked if the contract is a 10-year agreement. His concern is that within 10-years, will plastic bottled water be distributed? Leslie said that the contract has a five year initial term with two, two-year options to extend.

Conversation continued surrounding the message that UConn could potentially be sending by promoting the use of plastic while at the same time claiming to be a top CSR school. Further discussion continued pertaining to the balance between the environmental impact versus the business aspect (i.e. the revenue that can be generated from having UConn labeled water being sold across the state.)

Update on licensing: Timothy Tolokan informed the Committee that he will be receiving a letter from President Herbst authorizing the University of Connecticut's Licensing Office to request that Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) reinstate Russell. Tim explained that Russell will need to go through the process with CLC. They will be back in retail probably for the August 2012 back-to-school season.

Report back on meeting with Pres. Herbst: Chair Hertel informed the members that she had a good meeting with President Herbst. Shareen and Waldo Klein updated the President on the Coca-Cola contract, and the work that the committee members have done. Shareen also informed the President that Rich Miller would like to hire a graduate student to work in the Office of Environment Policy. The President's Office is in the process of looking into available funds.

Graduate Student: Rich Miller described the Provost's recently-issued policy, which clarified the differences between a Graduate Assistant, Fellowship and graduate student intern. The policy is timely and relevant to the discussion Shareen Hertel had with President Herbst. According to the new policy, a GA, in order to receive tuition and health benefits from the University, must be employed by his or her academic department and involved in teaching or research related to their degree. The OEP is an operational department in the COO's organization, not an academic department in the Provost's organization. A Fellowship is generally focused on research and may receive a tuition benefit at the discretion of the VP of Graduate Research & Education and on the recommendation of the student's department head. A Fellowship does not seem to be a viable option for the OEP. A graduate student intern is essentially the current arrangement Rich has in the OEP with an ARE graduate student who serves as UConn's part-time sustainability coordinator, i.e., the OEP budgets for and pays the student's hourly rate for a maximum 20 hours of work per week – there is no tuition or health benefit paid by the University and no additional stipend paid by the student's academic department. Once again, this would appear to be the only option for the OEP to hire a part-time, graduate student sustainability coordinator next year. It may be possible to work with an academic department that will share in the OEP's cost of a graduate student intern through an additional stipend

Chairwoman Hertel concluded the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Next meeting is December 21, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in Gentry Building, Room 246.