

Minutes
President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Present: Amber Albee, Kelsey Barringham, Gina DeVivo Brassaw, Kimberly Fearney, Shareen Hertel, Leslie Langworthy, Kyle Muncy, Rich Miller, Dennis Pierce, John Sears, William Simpson, and Waldo Klein

Absent: Robert Bird, Phil Dwire, Nina Hunter, Peter Kochenburger, Susan Randolph, and Rachel Rubin,

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Hertel.

Minutes: Chair Hertel asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made by William Simpson to approve the February 22, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Waldo Klein and approved.

Update on Designated Supplier Program (DSP) – William Simpson: Mr. Simpson gave an update on the Designated Supplier Program works. The DSP is a procurement standard proposed by the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) and the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS). It was designated to promote the use by US universities of suppliers that make use of a defined set of fair labor practices. UConn is one of the schools that have adopted the DSP or endorsed it in principle. The DSP program was originally proposed in 2005. The WRC pulled it from consideration by the Justice Department in 2006 feeling that it was unlikely to receive a favorable determination. A new program was submitted. On December 16, 2011, the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division approved the DSP so it can begin to be implemented.

The new version of the DSP has a number of differences. Two of the most important differences are (1) Schools that are affiliated with the WRC are not required to participate in the DSP and (2) if they do, there is no requirement for a certain percentage of their licensing contracts or of the certain percentage of licensed logo merchandise to comply with the licensing terms of the DSP. There is also no schedule of implementation in the new program that was a part of the older DSP program. The WRC hopes that over time, schools will opt into the program because of student and peer pressure. The decision to participate or not will be made by each school individually and is not a condition of WRC affiliation.

In the new DSP program there is a labeling requirement. It is point-of-state label containing information about the labor conditions under which the products was made, and the verification of that information. We are now in a period of "analysis and reflection." No one expects any university to respond to the DOJ's decision by moving immediately to implementation. This is likely to take months, if not years, to work out. Some of the outstanding issues include: how can it be implemented without causing significant price increases; without causing harm to smaller colleges and smaller licensees which may not have the resources to ensure full compliance with the DSP requirements.

Discussion of possible UConn policy statement on CSR - Leslie Langworthy, Kim Fearnery:

Leslie Langworthy mentioned that the CSR language will be incorporated into contracts, request for proposals, and purchase order terms and conditions. This language has been posted on the President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility web site <http://csr.ucon.edu>. This language does not require a formal University policy. Leslie indicated that should the University wish to pursue a "Vendor Code of Conduct" it would require a University policy which would need to go through the appropriate steps as required by the Office of Audit Compliance and Ethics. Kim Fearnery agreed. The Committee suggested Rachel Rubin be invited to a meeting when her schedule permits to discuss if it would be appropriate to move to the next step of creating such a Code.

Update on pouring rights contract timeline - Leslie Langworthy. Leslie also informed the Committee that the expectation is that the pouring rights contract should be in place by July 1, 2012.

Update on potential meeting with Omar Coffee & Rainforest Alliance - Dennis Pierce:

Dennis shared with members that he had met today (3/21/2012) with Omar Coffee and Rainforest Alliance representatives. They discussed the steps and terms that they are looking to take forward --UConn shifting to Rainforest Alliance Certification. Dennis will coordinate with John Sears when a representative from Omar Coffee and Rainforest Alliance could meet with the committee and give an overview. Dennis will discuss water distribution at the next meeting.

Update on campus environmental issues (possible GA position; water issues) - Rich Miller:

Rich informed that Committee that he discussed with Dana Wilder the possibility of a Graduate Assistant (GA) position. Dana is researching to find revenues to support the GA position for 2013 or 2014.

He invited the Committee to the Opening Ceremony of UConn's Climate Impact, Mitigation and Adaptation: A Reflection on Our Future (scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2012, at 3 p.m.) The event will take place in the Wilbur Cross, North Reading Room in Storrs.

Rich checked with Facilities regarding the issue about brown water at the Depot Campus. He informed the Committee that the Depot Campus is an old building and there is not a lot of use and also the prison also closed. Facilities fixed the plumbing/distribution system and the buildup does not occur. They checked Shippee and the water is cleared. The students use about 90 gallons a day when school is in session.

Chairwoman Hertel concluded the meeting at 4:05p.m.

Next meeting is April 18, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in Gentry Building, Room 246.