

Minutes
President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Present: Phil Dwire, Kimberly Fearney, Shareen Hertel, Nina Hunter, Waldo Klein, Leslie Langworthy, Susan Randolph, John Sears, William Simpson, Tim Tolokan

Absent: Kelsey Barringham, Robert Bird, Gina DeVivo Brassaw, Peter Kochenburger, Kyle Muncy, Rachel Rubin

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Hertel

Minutes: Chair Hertel called for approval of the minutes. A motion was made by Waldo Klein to approve the April 18, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Kimberly Fearney and approved.

Chair Hertel welcomed Nicholas Bokron and Shannon Cercone from Omar Coffee.

Update on Code of Conduct discussions – HERTEL: Shareen met with the President's Cabinet members and presented a Power Point presentation on "University of Connecticut's Options for Corporate Responsibility." They discussed whether or not UConn should adopt a Vendor Code of Conduct (VCOC). Shareen will be meeting with a few Cabinet members to discuss the development of a Vendor Code of Conduct for UConn. The meeting will take place the second week of July. Cabinet members expressed interest in the (VCOC).

Shareen will also make a presentation to the University Communications staff by early fall.

Briefing from Dining Services & Guest from Omar Coffee - PIERCE:

Wilson Griffin from Rainforest Alliance, conferenced into the PCCSR meeting and Nicholas Bokron and Shannon Cercone from OMAR were present. The dialogue was based on OMAR and how it will be certified by Rainforest Alliance. They are interested in coming to the University and giving presentation to our faculty, staff and students.

Briefing from Athletics on CLC articles – DWIRE:

Phil highlighted three articles shared by the Collegiate Licensing Company pertaining to on-campus student activism at Rutgers, Wisconsin, and Texas. Although nationally, sweatshop activism has not been in the news as much recently, these three peer institutions each are watching unique scenarios play-out on their campuses. Rutgers students hosted a presidential "disaffiliation party" to end the University's ties with the FLA. Wisconsin activists have been engaged in the mediation process with Adidas. Finally, Texas' student newspaper presented an op-ed "point-counterpoint" article on both sides of the current sweatshop issues facing universities. The committee was in consensus to continually monitor issues and events at our peer institutions to reinforce ongoing dialogue.

Update on Storrs Partnership (i.e., labor issues) – SIMPSON:

Bill reported on the ongoing meetings between UConn Faculty members (represented by Christopher Vials, Heather Turcotte and Mark Overmyer-Velazquez), the Town of Mansfield (represented by Matt Hart, and Antonia Moran), Mansfield Downtown Partnership (represented by Cynthia van Zelm), Leyland Storrs LLC (represented by Howard Kaufman) and the PCCSR (represented by Bill Simpson as an observer).

Those discussions have resulted in three different thrusts aimed at similar outcomes:

- (1) a responsible contracting ordinance by the Town of Mansfield that would cover all projects by the Town of Mansfield.
- (2) a responsible contracting agreement with Leyland Storrs LLC that would cover all future work by Leyland Storrs LLC at the Storrs Center Project.
- (3) the last thrust is the idea of convincing the University to adopt responsible contracting language that would apply to construction projects on the UConn campus.

The ordinance with the Town of Mansfield is moving, albeit slowly. Matt Hart, the Town manager appears to be in favor of such an ordinance and is helping shepherd it through the Town Council.

The agreement with Leyland Storrs LLC is under review. Howard Kaufman, the managing partner, did not suggest any significant issues with the draft agreement and pledged to review the document for future discussions.

The idea of having the University agree to such language in their documents for UConn construction projects has not been advanced. The faculty members are very interested in engaging the PCCSR to advance such a concept to the University.

The Committee agreed to continue to monitor the developments and to discuss this topic at a future committee meeting.

Possible Fall 2012 outreach events: Beverage events re: bottles (with designated vendor) and coffee with reps of Omar Coffee & Rainforest Alliance) – GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chair Hertel concluded the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in Gentry Building, Room 246.