

President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
October 18, 2006
WCB, G29
3:00 PM

Committee members in Attendance: Waldo Klein, Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins, Assistant Professor Shareen Hertel, John Schreiber, Timothy Tolokan, Peter Kochenburger, Samson Kimenyi and Mike Sarra.

Others in Attendance: Bill Potvin from Hosmer Mountain Soda, and Cathy Downs.

Not in attendance: Professor Boris Bravo-Ureta, and William Simpson.

Welcome New Members

Waldo Klein welcomed Samson Kimenyi and Peter Kochenburger, two new appointees to the Committee. He also welcomed Cathy Downs and indicated she will be the note taker for future meetings. Waldo Klein provided some background on the Committee to the new members stating that the Report of the Task Force on Sweatshop Labor made a recommendation to the President that a standing Committee be appointed to ensure that recommendations were enacted and enforced as a result of the Task Force, hence the President's Committee on Social Corporate Responsibility.

DSP Update

Julie Bell-Elkins reminded Committee members that they had received the most up to date copy of the DSP. The DSP Working Group has not received much feedback on the document.

We are still awaiting Attorney Baker's letter and as soon as it is received, it will go to UConn's Attorney General and then on to Attorney General Blumenthal's office for review, prior to going to the Department of Justice.

Committee members stated that UConn, as well as all the schools involved, should be able to review a confidential copy of Baker's letter prior to it going to the Department of Justice. The letter should not be sent without a review from the schools involved. Julie Bell-Elkins indicated she had hoped to receive the letter Monday or Tuesday while she is in Washington at the DSP Working Group and if she does, she will be sure to forward it on to the Committee.

Julie Bell-Elkins reported that she met with Amy VanHeuverzwyn, Campus President for USASS as well as a member of the National Board, last week and she is very pleased with all the work we are doing with DSP. Amy did begin discussions regarding the entities on campus constricted by contract to stay within Connecticut to purchase clothing for printing and/or embroidering. Amy thought that maybe this Committee could find out who in Connecticut is operating sweatshop free facilities and we could provide this information to the campus to use these facilities.

Tim Tolokan mentioned that most times the facility is sweatshop free, but the blanks are ordered from other areas and/or vendors and we don't always know where they come

from. The blanks are not part of the DSP. There are alternatives out there for purchasing blanks, but some might be outside Connecticut.

John Schreiber will consult with Tim Tolokan and will begin to write up legislation for USG that would require student organizations to order clothing blanks from sweatshop free vendors and a list of those vendors will be supplied. Once the information is collected, Julie Bell-Elkins will meet with Purchasing to discuss this issue.

Planning for Spring Educational Seminar

Shareen Hertel, Boris Bravo-Ureta and Waldo Klein have been pulling together plans for the Spring Educational Seminar. They would like to suggest someone from KLD, a consumer representative (potentially the National Consumer League), someone from Labor (possibly identified through contact with Attorney Derek Baxter), a student from the UConn community, and Ed Potter from Coca-Cola to be panelists. Shareen Hertel will moderate the panel. Discussions by the Committee raised the possibility of involving someone to represent an environmental perspective, potentially from/about India specifically. Consideration should be given to replacing a labor representative with the environmental perspective in light of the fact that the Miami court case concerning allegations against the Coke bottler in Columbia have been dropped by the court.

Announcements of Upcoming Programs

One week from today, October 25, 2006, June Nash will be at the Dodd Center at 4 p.m. to talk about "Consuming Interests: Water, Liquor and Coca-cola: From Ritual Integration to Corporate Expropriation in Highland Chiapas Indigenous Communities." This is our first co-sponsored event so please attend if you can.

The School of Social Work will host a one day conference with Micheline Slattery, "Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery: Working with Vicitms, Working for Change" on November 3, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. Registration is required. This Committee is also co-sponsoring this event.

Coca-Cola Update

Julie informed Committee members that the Miami based court case has been dismissed by the Judge. The Judge had already excluded Coca-Cola Atlanta back in 2002. The IOL Assessment Report will proceed with a new release time of the spring instead of by December 2006. Mike Sarra will research Coca-Cola in India.

Student Affairs DSP Invite

Dr. John Saddlemire would like to invite members of DSP to attend an upcoming Student Affairs Management Team meeting to talk about DSP. Julie Bell-Elkins wanted to run it by the Committee first to see if this is something they would like to do. The Committee was in agreement that they would like to attend an upcoming meeting. Julie Bell-Elkins will get back to the Committee with a date.

Other Updates

Hosmer Mountain Soda

Waldo Klein introduced Bill Potvin from Hosmer Mountain Soda to the Committee. Bill is a graduate of UConn and discussed his frustration with not being able to sell soda to UConn or Eastern because of the exclusivity agreements with Coca-Cola Pepsi-Cola respectively. He would like to request a clause in the contract that allows local businesses such as his own to sell their products to UConn. Mr. Potvin realizes that Hosmer Mountain could never meet the needs of the University, but he would like to be able to sell a small percentage to the University. Waldo Klein asked Mr. Potvin if some kind of "set aside" from the full University contract of perhaps 1-3 percent would be the kind of University response that would be meaningful to Hosmer. Mr. Potvin indicated that it would be and indicated that he would be delighted with the opportunity to provide specialized fountain services such as root beer at the Dairy Bar for root beer floats. Hosmer root beer is ranked #4 nationally. The Committee thanked Mr. Potvin for his suggestions and talked about future considerations.

Program Funding

William Simpson and the Co Op have offered \$2,500 to this Committee for future programming and Tim Tolokan and Athletics has offered to match the \$2,500. Thank you!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the President's Committee on Social Corporate Responsibility will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in the Wilbur Cross Building, Garden Level, Room 29.