

President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility

November 1, 2006

WCB, G29

8:00 AM

Committee members in Attendance: Waldo Klein, Chair, Dr. Julie Bell Elkins, Assistant Professor Shareen Hertel, John Schreiber, Timothy Tolokan, Peter Kochenburger, Professor Boris Bravo-Ureta, William Simpson and Mike Sarra.

Others in Attendance: Cathy Downs

Not in Attendance: Samson Kimenyi.

June Nash Event

Several members were able to attend the event and felt that it went well and was well attended. Boris Bravo-Ureta commented that as a Committee, we need to choose our co-sponsored events carefully.

Upcoming Human Trafficking Conference

Friday of this week, this Committee will co-sponsor the Human Trafficking Conference in West Hartford. Several committee members are planning to attend. An article will be going in the Advance on this conference and the Advance will also cover this event. Attendance numbers are high as they had to move to a larger location at the Greater Hartford Campus.

The Wal Mart conference occurred a few weeks ago and was well attended as well. There were about 70-80 individuals in attendance, including 30-40 students. Tim Tolokan mentioned he watched it on CTN so we should be able to get copies. Mike Sarra will look into getting copies from CTN.

Educational Spring Forum

The date for this Spring Forum was discussed and it was decided we need to change the date from 3/21 to 3/20 to better accommodate the Committee's schedules. A lengthy discussion took place on the logistics of the Spring Forum, i.e., date, amount of time, number of panelists, and panelists that should be invited. John Schreiber felt it was important that we allow ample time for questions from the audience. The Committee also felt that the individuals who make the contract/purchasing decisions here at UConn should be invited to this Forum. President Austin should attend this Forum as well.

Invitations for this event should go out within the month once we confirm the date. Waldo will draft a paragraph outlining the forum expectations that can be used in the invitation letters.

Board Meeting, Working Group Updates

Julie Bell-Elkins attended the Board meeting on Monday and the Working Group meeting on Tuesday and she gave an update on both meetings. Several stories were told at the meetings and the articles on these stories can be found on the WRC web site. There is still discussion amongst the Board on how many people need to be hired and where the money is coming from. They were very grateful to Tim Tolokan for sending

the list of the top 100 schools and which schools we still need to go after. No one contested the numbers that were raised on the list of schools. Julie Bell-Elkins discussed with a group of students at the meeting the need for them to talk with their campus administrators about getting their schools to join the DSP. The students need to get their schools involved.

All Committee members felt the Department of Justice Letter is key in getting other schools to join on. John Schreiber stated that UConn was ranked one of the top 10 schools for activism by "Mother Jones." Committee members asked if they could all receive a copy of this through Julie Bell-Elkins.

Discussion on Draft Letters

A lengthy discussion took place on the draft letters that were distributed to Committee members to review. Julie Bell-Elkins asked Committee members to be sure that the document presented contains all the facts and that the facts are the facts prior to it being finalized. Julie Bell-Elkins will deliver the documents to the Assistant Attorney General's Office for their review and comment with a cover letter outlining the Committee's work.

USG Legislation

John Schreiber has been talking with USG Senators about the proposed legislation requiring student organizations to order all blanks from sweat shop free vendors to get them on board so they vote in favor of the legislation. He is still waiting to meet with Joe Sweet to see what the legislation will need to contain. Tim Tolokan shared what will "soon be" a Fair Trade Company that UConn will be able utilize for clothing orders. The Co Op has just placed a large order with Countersourcing, which is a Fair Trade apparel company. Shareen Hertel is on their board and they have worked with Duke, BC, Carolina and they are trying to get NYU. Another vendor is Tee-Shirts, etc. They do great work with a union shop as well.

Swaziland Outreach Concept

Julie Bell-Elkins outlined a concept she thought might work for raising funds for Swaziland to help with the ever growing aides problems they are having there. Committee members liked this idea, but felt it had some major complexities and that the Committee has a lot on its agenda right now and that maybe we should explore other areas on campus that are already helping with this issue.

Student Affairs Presentation

The date proposed for Committee members to attend the Student Affairs Management Team did not work with everyone's schedules so Cathy Downs will get back to Julie Bell-Elkins, Tim Tolokan and Waldo Klein with an alternate date.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wilbur Cross Building, Garden Level, Room 29.