

President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
February 22, 2007
WCB, G29
9:00 AM

Committee members in Attendance: Waldo Klein, Chair, Julie Bell Elkins, Shareen Hertel, Timothy Tolokan, Susan Randolph.

Others in Attendance: Cathy Downs, Molly Kenefick and Mike Sarra.

Not in Attendance: Peter Kochenburger, William Simpson, Lakshman Thakur, Samson Kimenyi, John Schreiber, and Boris Bravo-Ureta.

DSP Update

Julie outlined her notes from 2/2/07 Working Group meeting that were previously sent to Committee members. Items of particular importance were the formation of a Sub-Group to discuss strategies pending the DOJ letter. This sub-group will be chaired by Julie Bell-Elkins. A conference call has been set for early next week for this group to begin these discussions. Members of the group include representatives USAS, WRC, Columbia University, University of Albany, University of California System and University of Colorado.

Final decisions on the DOJ letter should be made by the Deputy Attorney General in 3-6 months. The Working Group continues to meet monthly and Technical planning can continue while waiting for the DOJ letter.

The DOJ letter needs to be posted on the President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility web site. Julie will get a copy to the President's office for posting.

The trip to El Salvador is still on and there are 11 schools that have already indicated that they are interested in such a trip. There is discussion about whether to expand this opportunity to other WRC schools. A decision was made that it would be important for UConn to participate in this trip.

The annual meeting of the University Caucus of the WRC will be held on March 13, 2007 and Julie will be attending this Caucus. USAS suggested that we have a panel of workers to hear the perspective for whom the DSP would have the greatest impact.

Update from 2/2/07 Licensee Meeting

A power point presentation was given by Nancy Steffan, Assistant Director of the WRC on the changes that have been made with the DSP since we met with the licensees last summer. Julie briefly discussed the notes from this meeting that were previously sent out to Committee members.

The Licensees asked to be involved in a larger conversation about possible solutions and they were adamant that the DSP was not a workable plan. USAS was adamant that we should not be discussion anything but the DSP, and that they had already researched other options and that the DSP was the answer.

WRC Board Meeting Update (2/3/07)

Julie attended the board meeting and the most significant discussion items included the possible rate change of "C" Schools that participate in the WRC. It was decided that this action would be tabled until they were able to receive feedback from the WRC schools at the University Caucus on 3/13/07. The WRC reported their continued involvement in specialized projects with United States and Canadian cities regarding uniform apparel purchases.

Forum on Corporate Social Accountability

Discussion took place regarding the details of the Forum on Corporate Social Accountability to be held on March 20, 2007 from 2-5 p.m. in the Dodd Auditorium.

Confirmed panelists are Eric Fernald, Manager of KLD; Linda Golodner, President and CEO of the National Consumers League; Michael Stepford, Coca-Cola; Amit Srivastava, India Resource Center; and Amy VanHeuverzwyn, a UConn honors student with an individualized major in human rights and civil liberties. Dr. Shareen Hertel will moderate the Forum.

Mike Sarra distributed draft brochures and promotional pieces for the Committee to review and make edits.

All of the speakers coming to campus should make their own travel arrangements and submit receipts to the President's office for reimbursement. Cathy Downs will order refreshments for the reception after the Forum. Mike Sarra will take care publicizing the event.

A suggestion was made to show the movie "Thirst" the night before the Forum so students have the opportunity to view it prior to the forum.

USG Update

Molly reported that USG has not drafted the language yet as they want to meet with Tim Tolokan first to work out the logistics on how to make it happen. Students need to be made aware of the lead time for some of the items they order.

Other Business

Discussion took place on the recent student protest on the University of Connecticut Foundation and their possible divestments in Sudan.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Room G29 of the Wilbur Cross Building.