

Minutes  
President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility  
Wednesday, January 19, 2011  
3:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

**Present:** Amber Albee, Kelsey Barringham, Gina DeVivo Brassaw, Phil Dwire, Shareen Hertel, Nina Hunter, Waldo Klein, Leslie Langworthy, William Simpson, Regis Synnott, Tim Tolokan,

**Absent:** Robert Bird, Kimberly Fearney, Peter Kochenburger, Susan Randolph

Call to order issued by Waldo Klein

Welcome to returning members & brief remarks on the Committee's history and mandate, by Waldo Klein.

Shareen Hertel volunteered to take minutes.

**Introduction of three proposed student members (i.e., Kelsey Barringham, Nina Hunter, and Amber Albee):**

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss the three proposed candidates for membership. Discussion related to length of stay of these student and prospects for also engaging graduate students in the future. Motion by Shareen Hertel to accept the proposed slate; seconded by Tim Tolokan; approved by acclamation. End of executive session.

Review of previous minutes: motion by Tim Tolokan to accept previous minutes; seconded by Regis Synnott; approved by acclamation.

**WRC News:**

a) Study trips (organized by WRC, to factories participating in WRC program): there is currently not UConn faculty interest to attend these trips.

b) Upcoming WRC Board meeting: Waldo Klein will circulate related info to the Committee.

c) Alta Gracia internship: extensive discussion by the Committee of a new internship opportunity, available for undergraduate credit through the UConn Women's Studies Program and for graduate field placement credit through the UConn School of Social Work. Waldo Klein had previously circulated an email to the Committee with related background information. Committee members raised concerns regarding the process by which the internship was created, and substance of the activities to be carried out. Waldo Klein will call Nancy Naples (acting director, Women's Studies) and John Binelli (UConn School of Social Work) to discuss specifics.

**Russell Athletics Update:** Tim Tolokan provided an overview of companies that have reinstated Russell as a supplier. The reinstatement of UConn is a high priority to the company. After

extensive discussion of the actions taken to date by Russell, the Committee requested Tim Tolokan convey the following: 1) we are pleased with Russell's decision to involve Lance Compa (Cornell University School of Industrial & Labor Relations) in the process of developing collective bargaining mechanisms in the Honduran factory discussed; 2) we are optimistic that Compa's involvement will enhance the process; 3) but we will continue to wait to reinstate Russell until the system is entirely in place and collective bargaining is underway.

**Spring Event plan review:** Gina DeVivo Brassaw circulated a draft agenda for the March 28 event; the committee endorsed the proposed format and will send Gina individual recommendations of key stakeholder groups to involve in the event. Tim Tolokan volunteered to provide token items to students involved in the event; these would be items produced by UConn licensees and would help demonstrate how the CSR monitoring process works in practice. Waldo Klein will inquire with Kim Fearney to be certain that the Committee complies with state ethics regulations in relation to gifting the items to students.

**Updates from Campus - UConn Beverage Contract:** Leslie Langworthy briefed the Committee on the status of discussions with the State Attorney General's office regarding renewal of the beverage contract. There will be a meeting next week with senior UConn administration to determine the scope of the future contract that will be put out bid by March 2011 (e.g., whether or not to exclude UConn Athletics; whether or not to de-link bottled water from the current contract). The Committee could suggest purchasing language on contract termination based on weighted criteria that could include aspects of corporate social responsibility. The Committee is also supportive of the decision to separate water from the rest of the contract.

Identification of spring meeting dates: March 16, April 20 and May18 (all at 3:00 p.m.) as included in agenda for the meeting.

**Other Business:** Gina DeVivo Brassaw noted that the Office of Community Outreach is looking for ways to enhance its purchasing language. Tim Tolokan and Phil Dwire noted that a number of officially licensed vendors active in CSR monitoring through the CLC are not on the current State-approved vendor list. Tolokan suggested that new names in the apparel and promotional sectors be added at the time the 2011 approved vendor list is released; Leslie Langworthy will get the list of the current vendors in those sectors and the Committee can discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

Adjourned.