

Minutes
President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
August 24, 2011
Gentry Building Room 246

Present: Shareen Hertel, Robert Bird, Gina DeVivo Brassaw, Leslie Langworthy, Bill Simpson, Susan Randolph, Tim Tolokan, Nina Hunter and Amber Albee

Absent: Kimberly Fearney, Samson Kemenyi, Peter Kochenburger, Rich Miller, John Sears, Regis Synnott, Lillian Bosques, Kelsey Barringham, Phil Dwire, Rachel Rubin

Meeting called to order at 3:05 by Chairwoman Hertel.

Shareen Hertel requested volunteer to take notes in the absence of Lillian Bosques

Chairwoman Hertel welcomed new and returning members. New members to the committee are Richard Miller and John Sears. Rich Miller is the Director of Environmental Policy and John Sears is the Associate Director of Residence Education. One of John's goals is to integrate more CSR subjects into the curriculum. A short discussion ensued surrounding the recent email regarding the cost savings initiatives such as the custodial cuts.

Minutes: Chairwoman Hertel requested approval of the April 20, 2011 and May 18, 2011 minutes. A motion was made by Bill Simpson, seconded by Gina DeVivo Brassaw and motion carried unanimously.

Update on UConn Coop: Bill Simpson updated the committee on social responsibility at the UConn Coop. The Coop remains committed to socially responsible products. He reported that each year there are more and more of these types of products available and that the design is beginning to develop into more marketable products. However, pricing continues to be an adverse factor as well as the reliability which ultimately constrains their marketability. The Coop will continue to promote socially responsible products and continue to introduce new products into the mix.

The Coop is participating in National Student Day on October 6, by offering a discount to shoppers and coordinating with UConn Community Outreach on a CSR-related public education event. Chairwoman Hertel suggested that the Coop develop a similar approach to marking International Human Rights Day on December 10th.

Update on Licensing: Tim Tolokan reports that the WRC continues to monitor the Alta Gracia factory (Dominican Republic).

Tim also reports that Russell Athletic Corporation has taken remarkable steps forward in connection with its production in Honduras. A collective bargaining agreement is in place and functioning. In addition, the company has given 19.5% raises to employees effective immediately with an additional raise of 6% effective in January, 2012 as well as free transportation and meals to its employees. They have installed new equipment in the factory and rehired workers. Tim Tolokan will speak with Russell representative Stan Blankenship to clarify several issues related to future raises.

Chairwoman Hertel moved that pursuant to Tim's inquiries, the committee recommend to President Herbst that UConn authorize the CLC to enter into a Standard Retail Product License Agreement with Russell Brands. Susan Randolph seconded the motion. Bill Simpson recommended that relevant information be forwarded to all members of the committee so that every member can vote on the recommendation to President Herbst.

On October 4, 2011, Chairwoman Hertel and former Chairman Klein are meeting with President Herbst to discuss branding UConn as a CSR school.

Update on Purchasing language: Leslie Langworthy passed out the draft language to be used in the pouring rights RFP which is expected to be released in early September. The language can be used in other RFP's as well while the Committee considers drafting a Vendor Code of Conduct. Members of the Committee (including Leslie Langworthy and Robert Bird) worked on a proposal for the code in 2010-11 and that effort will likely continue in the year ahead.

Spring Event: The Committee intends to organize an event regarding fair purchasing in challenging economic times. Discussion continued regarding the tough climate for CSR vendors.

No new business to be discussed.

Next meeting is 9/21/11 at 3:00 PM in Gentry Building, Room 246.

Chairwoman Hertel made a motion to adjourn, Bill Simpson seconded and motion passed unanimously at 4:30 p.m.