

## **President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility**

**June 15, 2007**

**WCB, G29**

**9:00 AM**

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Committee members in Attendance: Waldo Klein, Chair, Julie Bell Elkins, Shareen Hertel, Timothy Tolokan, Peter Kochenburger, Ryan McHardy, Bill Simpson.

Others in Attendance: Cathy Downs, Harriett Johnson.

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

### Coca-Cola Letters

Waldo drafted a letter to Coca-Cola Atlanta Executives on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 regarding our disappointment in their decisions to cancel their participation in the forum on Corporate Social Responsibility just weeks before the event. Coca-Cola responded to Waldo and Waldo sent another response on June 7<sup>th</sup>. All of the referenced letters were distributed to Committee members for review.

Julie, Waldo and Tom Wilsted met and discussed the response to Coca-Cola and Waldo sent the letter after their discussion. It is important that we reiterated the goal of the panel to Coca-Cola which was to provide a University-wide forum to share information and facilitate open dialogue on Corporate Social Responsibility. At this meeting with Julie, Tom and Waldo, fall dates were discussed for another possible forum and late October, early November seemed to work best for such a plan.

Julie has received information that Coca-Cola has been canceling a lot of their public appearances.

The letter from Smith College to Coca-Cola canceling their contract was distributed to Committee members. This is the first University that has so publicly named the issues they have with Coca-Cola's practices and clearly cited why they were choosing not to do business with them in the future based on Corporate Social Responsibility Issues.

Waldo updated Tom Callahan on the entire Coke situation and Tom Callahan commented on what great work this Committee continues to do. UConn's contract with Coca-Cola is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of a 10 year contract and because we are a public university, we do have more restrictions on contracts.

Shareen suggested that someone from our Committee talk with Amii Omara-Otunnu to make him aware of what is going on with Coca-Cola and the University to date.

### Fall Forum

A lengthy discussion took place on the need to hold a forum in the fall. Several suggestions were made on ideas for the Forum: Bring in a local company to see where they get their blanks; look at relationships with counter sourcing; an open forum working with CSR; do a social audit of the Committee (bring in USG to talk about clothing; Bill Simpson to talk about the Co Op ordering of books and merchandise; Peter

Kochenburger to talk about Investment Funds; Tim Tolokan to talk about the CLC and Julie to talk about the DSP.) We could also possibly get someone from another University to talk about what they're doing.

#### DSP/WRC Updates

Julie attended the board meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. There has been a significant change in the board membership since the last meeting. Folks that are newly elected to the board are all active members of the WRC working group now. All of the students are turning over as well on the Board. The Board was informed that Julie is working with a group to work on alternatives to the DSP.

The sub group of the Working Group will be meeting in DC during the week of June 19, 2007. Ryan McHardy will be sharing information on USG's work in this area, and Liz Kennedy of USC has been asked to share information on their alternatives to the DSP.

Eight other schools signed onto the DPS and Julie will have a complete list next week that she will share with everyone.

#### Other Business

Ryan reported that USG passed legislation to form an Ethics and Compliance Task Force that will be charged each semester with making sure appropriate compliance issues and licensing issues are being met and the Vendors they are using are appropriate. USG is one of the first student groups to pass this kind of legislation. They will be educating students on why these changes are being implemented and the importance of the new compliance issues.

USG has also passed a Statement of Purpose in support of the Human Rights and this Committee. A copy of this Statement of Purpose will be sent out to Committee members.

#### KLD Index

Julie distributed the most recent KLD Index to Committee members. Julie also discussed a new opportunity for UConn with the KLD Index. There is a possibility that Career Services might contract with KLD to have access to all their indexes for students to review them prior to seeking employment at certain companies. Julie spoke with the Director of Career Services, Cynthia Jones, and she thinks it's a great idea. Funding was discussed as well as talking with Rachel Jackson at Careers for the Common Good about this program.

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in Room G29 of the Wilbur Cross Building.