

President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
September 12, 2007
WCB, 110
9:00 AM

Committee members in Attendance: Julie Elkins, Shareen Hertel, Timothy Tolokan, Peter Kochenburger, Ryan McHardy, Bill Simpson, Susan Randolph, Boris Bravo-Ureta, Lakshman Thakur.

Others in Attendance: Cathy Downs, Ruth Rosenbaum.

Not in Attendance: Waldo Klein, Chair, Samson Kimenyi.

Fall Forum Discussion

A very lengthy discussion took place on the need to hold a forum in the fall. Committee members all felt it was important that we have a conversation with the new President to receive his approval on our moving forward with such a forum. Julie indicated that she and Waldo will be meeting with Ron Schurin in the President's office regarding this Committee. Ron has assured Julie that this Committee remains a priority and Ron will make sure that Julie and Waldo will meet with President Hogan and that President Hogan will also attend one of our future meetings.

Boris informed the Committee that November 8-15 is International Week sponsored by the State Department and the Department of Education at UConn. President Hogan will attend and help "kick off" this week at an event on 11/8. Boris thought this might be a good time for our Committee to hold their Forum. Several different events will be going on during these days.

Susan Randolph thought that it might be good to educate the campus on global fair wages, something that students can grab onto. Several ideas were discussed for this Fall Forum, including: sustainable living wage, fair trade, fair trade/peace trade. Discussion also took place about having CREA lead a general discussion on sustainability, and talk more about the broader issues (economic, social and environmental). This could be tied into living wages and labor issues.

Committee members felt that Thursday, November 8th would work best for most folks. The tentative agenda could be: General Presentation followed by a film or two and an exhibit/sale of fair trade items at the Co Op. It was also suggested that the books that were displayed by the Co op during Earth Day be displayed again during this event.

Shareen will invite Rachel Jackson to attend our next Committee meeting to talk about several films that could be used for this forum.

It was the consensus of the Committee that this event be sponsored by the President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. The Committee also felt that we should begin to look into three more forums to hold in the spring to follow-up with this Forum. It was felt that the Committee should begin to prepare an agenda for the fall and spring so that it can be shared with President Hogan once he is on board at UConn.

Julie will follow-up with Boris on the name for this fall event and the Committee can discuss the spring forums at our next meeting.

Peter suggested that the Committee work to develop a pamphlet with the events that will be held that can be distributed to Students with links to how they can help and they can get involved with fair trade, etc.

DSP/WRC Updates

Julie reported that nothing has come from the DOJ yet. The subcommittee has not met since the summer when Ryan McHardy attended on behalf of USG and talked about the steps USG is taking and how other student groups can get involved.

Julie has heard that changes are being discussed and 50 + 1 is back on the table for discussion as well as who is too big and who is too small of a company to be a part of the DSP.

WRC will reconvene the working group on 10/18 and 10/19 will be Julie's first board meeting with the WRC.

USG Updates

Ryan McHardy reported that USG is finalizing their position statement to go along with a welcome letter to President Hogan. This position statement is USG's support of this Committee and that it continue.

USG is also working on their an Ethics and Compliance Policy and they have been meeting with fair trade vendors about t-shirts that they can order for student give-a-ways.

USG has also been addressing funding issues and contract guidelines. USG will only approve funding for groups that are adhering to University contracts.

KLD Update

Julie is still waiting for additional funds to match the \$1,000 allocated by Career Services to access the KLD list so that it can be put on Career Services' web site for students to review prior to their employment at a certain company. Julie made initial contacts with HRI and will follow-up again to try to gain their co-sponsorship. This effort is being pursued so students, faculty and staff have access to all KLD reports. This Committee has used KLD reports when considering issues regarding Coca-Cola.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be held on **Friday, September 21, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Student Union, Room 320.**