

**President's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility**  
**Friday, October 26, 2007**  
**UConn Co Op Conference Room**  
**9:00 AM**

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In Attendance: Julie Elkins, Shareen Hertel, Waldo Klein, Peter Kochenburger, Susan Randolph, Bill Simpson, Tim Tolokan

Not in Attendance: Boris Bravo-Ureta, Samson Kimenyi, Ryan McHardy, Laksham Thakur.

**1. Fall Forum: Global Responsibility: Living Wage, Fair Labor Practices, and Eco-Sustainability**

Julie indicated that flyers would be posted by students about this event the academic buildings and the student union. Cathy will put an advertisement in the Daily Campus the week of the event and she will be sure it runs on the Faculty and Student web sites. Three tables will be set up outside the Student Union, one for books, one for fair trade items and one for literature.

Cathy will make arrangements to have a run through in the student union at 1 p.m. on the date of the event to be sure everything is working as it should be.

Julie will be in touch with Ruth and Sabhash about the logistics of the event.

**2. DSP/DOJ**

There were three concerns that came out of the meeting: 1) That universities are NOT competitors 2) They do agree that Universities will be making individual decisions at each institution; 3) Impact on domestic prices – they will not accept 1-6%, they believe that it will be a much larger percentage increase.

The most pivotal piece is the concept regarding competition. This is the essential philosophical premise that Universities are NOT competition for customers purchasing clothing. The DSP document advances, for example, that a UCONN fan would not be interested in purchasing a University of Tennessee shirt due to our women's basketball rivalry. Currently the DOJ review committee disagrees with this premise and believes that we are competitors.

The Committee asked Julie to check with students on campus to see how their activity is in reference to this issue. Julie will make efforts to reach out to interested students.

**3) WRC Board**

**There was a great deal of discussion on the DSP and the DOJ ruling. The board has directed Scott Nova to take two actions. First that he return in February with a written alternative to the DSP. Secondly, that they recommend resending the DOJ request if it is not returned by the end of Feb. 28, 2008. The WRC University Caucus was scheduled for Feb. 29, 2008, and the WRC board meeting for both in DC. Julie will be in attendance at both meetings.**

#### **4) Russell Athletics**

Julie outlined what had recently taken place with Russell Athletics and their plants in Honduras. Russell was going to meet with WRC on Wednesday for an update and Julie will get back to the Committee on the results of that meeting.

Most of the campuses with active USAS groups took some type of action regarding this situation. Miami pulled their contract with Fruit of the Loom (Russell Athletics), but reinstated it 48 hours later. Duke issued an official letter of notice.

Russell is in the top 10 of University's apparel licensees.

The Committee requested that we keep this issue on the front burner and we follow-up with the employees that were to be reinstated and we stay actively involved in this situation and follow-up as necessary.

The Committee also requested that a discussion take place with the President's Office on UConn joining the FLA and that Julie have that conversation with UCONN USAS to see what their position is on this. It is also worth talking with USG and getting a statement from them on this issue.

#### **5) President Hogan and Lisa Troyer, Special Assistant to the President**

President Hogan and Lisa Troyer came by the meeting to express their thanks to the Committee members for the work they are doing.

Waldo gave a brief history on the Committee and the work that has been done to date by the Committee.

Julie Elkins indicated that UConn was one of the original seven schools to get involved with the DSP working group and there are now 40 members.

The committee members expressed their disappointment on the Spring Forum that they had planned that had to be cancelled due to Coca-Cola pulling out at the last minute.

USG passed legislation last year on fair trade issues. They have also made sure all their contracts are in line with University policies.

President Hogan asked if there were things that the University could be doing on campus for more compliance of some of these corporate social issues.

The Committee felt that the purchasing of apparel from offices throughout the University are sometimes not the appropriate University colors and the logos are not official University logos, etc.

USG is working on a statement that will require student groups to be sure their purchases of apparel are from "sweat shop free" factories.

#### **6) Coca Cola Updates**

Coca Cola has a history of launching sophisticated lobbying efforts against recycling, but they are now launching a new campaign on recycling.

KLD as issued a new report, but Julie has not been able to get a copy of that report to date. Julie is still working with offices to access the KLD reports for students to use when job searching to work at socially conscious companies.

#### **7) Other Business**

Discussion took place on possible topics for the Spring Forum:

DSP/WRC/FLA – Discussion around these topics

Web cast with other Universities on primary licensees and licensing, CLC, etc.

**8) Next Meetings**

The next two meetings of the President Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will be on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Student Union, Room 324 and Friday, December 14, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the UConn Co Op Conference Room.