

Minutes: LLPC Meeting 23 March 2006

Attendance:

Student Reps: John, Liana, Joel

Faculty Reps: Dennis, Charlotte, Katherine (minute taker).

Academic Staff: Michelle (Chair), Liz.

Administration: Cindy, Dawn.

Guests: Eric Hoyt (SLAC), Pheobe Taunck (SLAC), Chapin Smith (SLAC), Brad VerStanding (SLAC), Molly Glasgow (SLAC), Bill Anderson (SLAC), Matt Johnson (SLAC), Wanda Ashman (SLAC/UW), James Ploeser (SEIU Local #1), Shaila Toledo (SEIU Local #1), Susan Villuonas (South Central Fed of Labor), Liz Lease (CNCS), Hannah Longrie (ASM Shared Governance Committee), Drew Hamm (Badger Herald), Dayle Burke (University Police).

Worker Tour Update: Liana thanked all who attended the tour of the three Latin American workers. She noted their support for DSP and their desire for orders to be placed as quickly as possible.

More Campuses Joining Initiative: Joel reported that 11 schools are supporting the DSP initiative in some form. In addition to UW, Indiana University, Georgetown, Duke, University of Connecticut, University of Maine at Farmington, Cornell, Santa Clara, Cornell, Syracuse and Hamilton College are involved. Liana urged the UW administration to contact the Chancellor at University of Illinois and to support efforts underway at Indiana, the UC system, Penn State, North Carolina and Ohio State. Liana also noted additional outreach efforts underway at various small colleges and Louisiana State.

Update on Designated Supplier Policy: Dawn reported that Scott (WRC) does not see a problem with monitoring to ensure UW goods made in accordance with DSP. She noted that LaMarr was currently in Washington DC at a meeting of the 11 campuses seeking to implement the DSP.

Joel commented that he and other students are pleased to see our Chancellor continuing to engage recommendations. However they are concerned about a loophole in the language regarding unions, freedom of association and elections since brands could force the WRC to prove a given election was not free. Liana commented that the only way to know if there is freedom of association is if there is a representative body. James (Ploeser) noted a similar problem in the campaign of cleaning workers and urged this issue be addressed. Shaila noted that the Employee Free Choice Act allows workers to organize not through elections but through a card check process with a neutral third party. Discussion touched on assurances that not all workers are required to be members of worker bodies, concerns about WRC not having to prove a negative, brands flooding WRC with requests for approval. Hope was expressed that language be found to address this loophole.

Update on adidas. Dawn announced that adidas (Salomon sold to adidas) has been very forthcoming in allowing UW access to workers complaints, remediation, and other such requested information. She noted that UW is the only university to have such an

arrangement with adidas. Dawn noted that UW has selected 20 factories to review with access to preproduction audits, health and safety records, quality, on time delivery, worker complaints and remediation. The review is done through an “e-room” and UW can then ask adidas to address an issue of concern and report back, can ask WRC to investigate a particular factory and can report concerns to the Chancellor.

Liana felt this process would be improved with a link to workers to provide more direct verification and that the WRC could play a role in this process. Dawn noted that this would be a good link to pursue.

Update on Hermosa Factory: Dawn informed the LLPC that the university is not willing to write a letter at this time since the adidas representative has been working with the El Salvadoran government and banks and has been cooperating in seeking back pay for workers and alternative jobs. Michelle asked if our letter could be revised to show support for these efforts. Dawn replied that the Chancellor only wants to send a letter if it will be effective.

Committee members disagreed, arguing that adidas is stonewalling, as is the El Salvadoran government; that this is a classic pattern of brands shifting blame to manufacturers; that UW has no leverage over the El Salvadoran government but does have leverage over adidas since it can break its contract with adidas for violation of our code of conduct. Dawn replied that the problem arose when the factory owner did not pay into the pension plan for ten years and then left with the money, but that adidas had only worked with this factory for 2 years and only on a minimal basis(10 percent of production).

No resolution was reached.

Query regarding upcoming LLPC appointments: The Faculty Governance Committee makes LLPC faculty appointments.

Update on Steven Barry: Dawn will check to see if the Chancellor sent a letter.

Future Efforts to Promote DSP: LLPC committee members agreed to be available to students, faculty and administrators from other universities who wanted to learn more about the activities of the LLPC in the hopes of encouraging additional colleges and universities to support the DSP.

The meeting began at 10:00 am and concluded at 11:05 am.