

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001

3:00 - 4:30

300 MORRILL HALL

[In these minutes: Proxy Voting, Student Housing, Workers' Rights Consortium Annual Meeting, Global Warming, Coffee Vendors]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: George French (Chair), Mike Davey, Selma de Ridder, John Jensen, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Wesley Matson, Jean Niemiec, Greg Schooler, Richard Zellman

REGRETS: Judi Linder, Geri Malandra, Julie Sweitzer, Karly Turner

ABSENT: Katherine Anderson, John Beatty, Robert Brown, Patricia Cavanaugh, Anthony Eliseuson, Catherine Forseide-Hussain, Andrew Kuhlmann, Luis Ramos-Garcia

GUESTS: MSA President Matt Clark, Housing and Residential Life CFO Norm Goronowski, Housing and Residential Life Director MaryAnn Ryan

All present were introduced.

1. PROXY VOTING.

American International Group: Appoint an independent nominating committee. Motion to vote FOR passed unanimously.

Ann Taylor Stores Corp.: Implement ILO standards and third-party monitoring. Motion to vote FOR passed unanimously.

AT&T: Allow vested employees traditional pension plan option. Motion to vote FOR passed unanimously.

AT&T: Report on involvement in pornography. Motion to ABSTAIN passed unanimously.

Enron Corp.: Report on environmental impact and plans. Motion to vote FOR passed unanimously.

Assignments to summarize remaining proxy resolutions for the next meeting:

Target store locations	Mike Davey
Adopt code of conduct for China operations	Rick Zellman
Don't make charitable contributions	Margaret Kuchenreuther

2. STUDENT HOUSING.

MaryAnn Ryan and Norm Goronowski reviewed their written responses to the questions which had been sent to them prior to the meeting, and also answered questions from those present. It was suggested that some sort of public relations effort to help students understand the costs of student housing would be beneficial. Ms. Ryan said she would take this up with the housing budget committee.

3. WORKERS' RIGHTS CONSORTIUM (WRC) ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

George French reported on his attendance at this meeting on March 24. Matt Clark, President of the Undergraduate Student Association, and Associate General Counsel Nancy Hoyt also attended this meeting at the request of President Yudof, who very strongly believes that it is important for the University of Minnesota to address the rights and working conditions of those who produce University-licensed apparel and other products. Scott Nova has been hired as the full-time executive director of the WRC and permanent office space has been rented. Professor French, Mr. Clark, and Ms. Hoyt agree that Mr. Nova seems to be a good choice to head the organization as he is informed and has a good grasp of the issues at hand. The agenda at this meeting included reports and discussions on administrative issues, staff hiring, fundraising plans, and a report on the Kukdong investigation and remediation. In short, the Kukdong investigation involves a Mexican factory that makes college apparel for various companies, including Nike. Managers were illegally keeping laborers from returning to their jobs after a strike. Furthermore, investigations also uncovered evidence that managers at the Korean-owned Kukdong International Factory physically abused workers and employed children. The factory has been given a chance to correct these and other problems, and follow-up checks have shown some progress. The Kukdong investigation has been the first opportunity for the WRC to actually become involved with this type of work, precipitating the need to develop specific guidelines/protocols for launching and conducting factory investigations and remediations. Also on the agenda was a discussion of the status of the WRC model Code of Conduct and its relationship to the Codes of affiliate schools. The Social Concerns Committee has determined that it is important that all members of the University community, including especially concerned students and faculty, have an opportunity to comment on a proposed University of Minnesota Code of Conduct, incorporating a side-by-side comparison of other codes that have been adopted by other universities with major licensing programs.

4. GLOBAL WARMING.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

5. COFFEE VENDORS.

The issues of shade-grown coffee and fair-traded coffee were introduced and discussed briefly. It was the consensus of the Committee that this item would remain on the agenda for further study.

6. OTHER BUSINESS.

Agenda for the April 30 meeting:

- a. Proxy voting
- b. Global Warming/Energy/Building Standards - Margaret Kuchenreuther
- d. Coffee vendors - Margaret Kuchenreuther
- e. Workers' Rights Consortium Code of Conduct - George French

With no further business, Professor French thanked all present for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Mary Kosowski

University Senate