

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

[In these minutes: Introductions, Code of Conduct position statement as it relates to the WRC, agenda items for next meeting]

[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: Robert Brown (Chair), Julie Sweitzer, Brian Wiedenmeier, Greg Schooler, Mark Pedelty, Margaret Kuchenreuther

REGRETS: George French, Jean Niemiec, John Jensen, Judi Linder

ABSENT: Catherine Forseide-Hussain, John Beatty, Luis Ramos-Garcia

GUEST: Professor Ian Maitland, Strategic Management/Organization; Executive Development Center – Carlson School of Management.

1. Professor Brown called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.
2. Professor Brown called on Professor Ian Maitland to present his views regarding the University's Code of Conduct for purchase of goods produced in 'Third-World' settings. Part of the discussion was guided by Professor Paul Glewwe's position statement opposing the University's Code of Conduct distributed to the committee. The University's Code of Conduct establishes standards for all Licensees to follow as a condition of being permitted to produce and/or sell University Licensed Articles. The Code specifically outlines acceptable social and ethical business practices to which these Licensees must adhere.

According to Professor Maitland the current Code is too vague and presents a variety of threats to the welfare of citizens of the states it seeks to aid. Professor Maitland went on to say that Professor Paul Glewwe's position paper represents an excellent short statement reflecting the consensus of many academic specialists on foreign investment and its impact on developing countries. Committee members then participated in a lengthy discussion about the Code of Conduct as it relates to the Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC). Professor Maitland volunteered to return and speak to the Committee again when more members are

present, and, also, to serve as a resource person for the Committee on this matter should the Committee so desire.

3. Other business – Members agreed that two agenda items tabled from last year will be addressed at the next meeting:
  - Fair-traded and shade-grown coffee
  - The University of Minnesota’s progress as far as the energy efficiency standards it’s adopted, and whether those standards are being enforced.

Professor Kuchenreuther indicated she would pull together the information she has on these issues and forward it to Professor Brown. Professor Brown at the suggestion of Julie Sweitzer, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action, will contact Steven Spehn, Acting Head of Facilities Management, to invite him or an associate to an upcoming meeting to provide the Committee with a status report on energy efficiency standards and their implementation.

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

Renee Dempsey  
University Senate